



Solar eclipse was cast over
North Atlantic region
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY B7



Kingsman adds twist
of humor to action
ARTS B3

the johns hopkins News-Letter

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FAS hosts Humans of New York creator

By TONY SUN
Staff Writer

The Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) teamed up with the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) to host award-winning photographer Brandon Stanton on Wednesday. Holding to this year's FAS theme of "Chaos/Catalyst/Clarity," Stanton spoke about his personal experience transitioning from working as a Chicago bond trader to a street photographer by highlighting the evolution of his Humans of New York (HONY) page.

Stanton spent his childhood in Atlanta. Having graduated as a history major from the University of Georgia, Stanton acquired the bond trading job after what he described as a lucky interview involving a gamble on Obama winning the presidency. Because of the tenuous

SEE FAS, PAGE A6

Hopkins will evaluate campus housing system

By WILL ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The University will be launching an initiative to evaluate all aspects of student housing, both on and off campus, as well as the impact of the Office of Residential Life on the student experience.

The University is currently working to expand housing options with a new apartment building at 2300 St. Paul Street, formerly known as the Olmsted lot. The building is scheduled to open in 2016, in time for current freshmen to move in during their junior year.

The apartments will be sold on the open market and will not be considered on-campus housing. However, according

to Carol Mohr, the associate dean of Housing, Residential Life and Dining, they will be designed to accommodate upperclassmen.

"The largest initiative is the building being constructed by a private developer on the corner of St. Paul and 33rd Streets. It has been designed with Hopkins upperclassmen in mind. The apartments, primarily 4 bedroom units, are in a building where there will be ample common space, convenient retail and parking," Mohr wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Mohr wrote that the University wants to let students have a choice in their housing options.

With the exceptions of

SEE HOUSING, PAGE A5



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

While some Hopkins students take Adderall to improve their focus when studying, others use it for partying, often in combination with other drugs.

Students abuse Adderall for work, pleasure

By ALEX DRAGONE
Staff Writer

Illegal usage of Adderall and other prescription amphetamines, which are used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), has a large yet underground presence at Hopkins.

Amphetamines increase the release of dopamine in the brain, creating a sense of pleasure and allowing users to focus on tasks and to stay awake.

In addition to Adderall, ProCentra and Vyvanse are commonly prescribed amphetamines.

People who use amphetamines without a prescription do so for both work and recreational purposes.

One anonymous student who uses and occasionally sells amphetamines said that the drugs have a significant impact on their productivity.

"It's like steroids for the brain," the student said. "You can take one of those, and ideas will just come into your head if you're writing an essay. It'll just write itself basically. It's amazing."

In a typical week, the student uses amphetamines only twice. However, their use increases during finals.

"Probably the whole two weeks, if I can get my hands on Adderall, I'd do about two pills a day, four days a week, for two weeks," the student said.

Another student, who has used a variety of amphetamines and also wished to remain anonymous, uses the drug less frequently.

"[I'd use them] maybe every other week... I've never found that it was something I could study on," the student said. "If I was going to try to do work, I would end up

focusing on the wrong thing very quickly. And then I would just waste 12 hours without even realizing it, because you kind of lose sense of time."

Jonah Scott, a junior at Peabody, said he finds the illegal use of amphetamines for productivity to be unethical.

"There's no reason to be using a drug that has a purpose for people who need it just because you don't think you can focus enough when it's crunch time," Scott said.

Both anonymous students said that their amphetamine use was primarily for recreational purposes.

SEE ADDERALL, PAGE A4

DoE reps to visit for Title IX feedback

By LAUREN FANG
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will visit Hopkins next week to meet with students in focus groups as part of its investigation into the University's Title IX policies and practices.

The OCR opened an investigation into the University's actions following a complaint in the spring of 2014 after the administration did not inform the campus community of an alleged gang rape at Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) in 2013.

Hopkins is one of 104 colleges and universities under federal investigation for possible sexual violence violations under Title IX.

"JHU was notified by OCR that it was commencing a review of a Title IX complaint regarding JHU's handling of, and response to, sexual violence issues," a press release from Vice Provost for Student Affairs Kevin Shollenberger, Vice Provost and Chief Diversity

SEE OCR, PAGE A4

MCAT update adds new stress for pre-med students

By TESSA WISEMAN
For *The News-Letter*

The new edition of the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), which will debut on April 17 and will include social sciences for the first time, creates new challenges for pre-med students.

While some students already signed up for the new exam, others have adjusted their plans in response. Many students rushed to take the old exam while it was still being offered, and others have delayed their plans in order to prepare for the new test.

The MCAT has not gone through a major revision since 1991.

Though the test will still require knowledge in biology, physics, organic

chemistry and general chemistry, the new exam will also test students' knowledge of psychology, sociology, biochemistry, genetics and experimental design principles.

The verbal section has changed as well, as it will no longer contain natural sciences-themed passages,

but rather passages that require no previous knowledge about the topics they present.

In addition to modified content, the new MCAT is significantly longer and has an updated scoring system. The test will contain 230 multiple-choice questions

in four sections, and will take six hours and 15 minutes to complete. The highest possible score is 528.

The old test, which was discontinued in January, consisted of three sections — Physical Science, Biological Science and Verbal Reasoning — and consisted of 144 multiple-choice questions over three hours and 20 minutes. The highest possible score was 45.

Gabriella Miller, a junior majoring in Public Health Studies and Natural Sciences, plans to take the MCAT on that first test date of April 17. The AAMC is providing a \$150 Amazon gift card to every student who takes it on that date, to encourage students to be in the pilot group.

"I am very nervous,"

SEE MCAT, PAGE A5

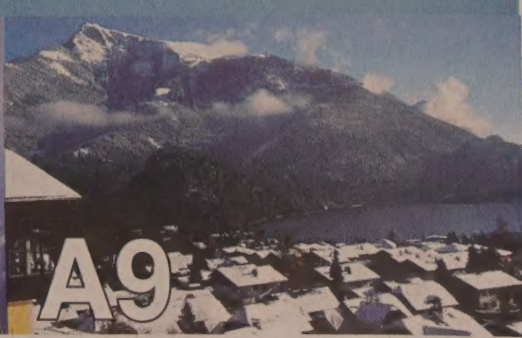
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NEWS & FEATURES

New FFC chef spices up menu offerings

By CATHERINE PALMER

Asst. News & Features Editor

Executive Sous Chef David Friendlich joined the staff of the Fresh Food Café (FFC) on Feb. 13 and is working to improve the service and increase the variety of food it serves in order to accommodate as many as students as possible.

"We want [students] to enjoy coming here to dine," Friendlich said. "We want it to be as good as you would get in a restaurant."

Friendlich previously oversaw the operations of Nolan's and the Charles Street Market, including its catering division. A year and a half ago Friendlich began working full-time at Nolan's as executive sous chef after the head chef resigned. Friendlich transferred to the FFC last month in order to ensure that its operations are more in accordance with Bon Appétit guidelines.

"The purpose of coming over here is to help improve speed of service and quality," Friendlich said. "We have what's called our GE-3, 'great expectations three,' which is our version of Bon Appétit's standards that we get graded on. It's to make sure we're adhering to our standards and making sure we [use] all fresh products."

Friendlich said he is working to standardize the preparation of the FFC's staple offerings by making official recipes that employees can use. He said the FFC will also be providing more varied meal options, including flatbread pizza, stromboli, calzones and batter-dipped zucchini fries.

Friendlich said he is also working to better accommodate students with dietary restrictions.

"We're going to try to have a few different gluten-free options that we make that are being stored in [the freezer]. We try to just accommodate as many people as we can, any dietary restrictions that they have — just increasing the variety of what we have for them, so it's not just, 'I can get two things and that's it,'" Friendlich said.

He said he encourages students with dietary restrictions to contact him.

The FFC also intends to serve more ethnically diverse food and has scheduled four Cultural Nights spread throughout the semester. These are being sponsored by the freshman class council. The first Cultural Night, held Feb. 25, featured Latin American cuisine. Wednesday's Cultural Night featured dishes from East Asia such as sushi, dumplings, noodles and a variety of Asian desserts and attracted many students.

Sophomore Elissa Mardiney said she appreciated the range of options available.

"I already love the food here, but it's better [when there is] more variety because nobody likes to eat the same thing," Mardiney said.

Freshman Grant Welby also applauded the unique meal options.

"It's neat. You get to eat a lot of food that you don't normally get exposed to," Welby said.

The final two Cultural Nights, featuring Mediterranean and African cuisines, will be held on April 8 and April 29, respectively.



COURTESY CATHERINE PALMER
Friendlich oversees one of the cultural nights held this semester.

Friendlich said he is also planning new events for the next school year, including chef demonstrations where students will be able to ask questions.

"We'd just do a meal that we're having, a meal that we might have or a meal you could do in your dorm room," he said.

Friendlich also stressed the importance of helping students become more environmentally conscious with take out boxes.

"Everything we use is compostable, but because it's compostable still doesn't make it good for the environment. We have lots of people that will take to-go boxes and then dine in with them," he said. "The best thing to do is really eat on a plate."

Friendlich also described changes he is making to improve employee-student relations.

"We're making sure [employees] stay in their uniform. We want [students] to be able to identify who they are," Friendlich said. "We're trying to make sure we [give] everybody a name tag. We want to know who we can recognize for doing a good job and have people in uniform take pride in what they're doing."

In a February 2014 report, *The News-Letter* revealed widespread staff discontent with Bon Appétit management. The subject of staff members' criticism, the FFC's executive chef, has since been replaced.

Greek life Bible group gaining traction

By ASHLEY KIM

For *The News-Letter*

The Greek InterVarsity (IV) Christian group, an organization founded by members of the Hopkins Christian Fellowship (HCF) who are also involved in Greek life, has become a steadily growing fixture of student life in recent years.

Senior Martha Whiting, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta; senior Macie Wilkins, a member of Alpha Phi and senior Meera Valliath, a member of Phi Mu, are the leaders and founders of the group which holds meetings every Thursday to discuss topics ranging from its members' Christian faiths to their personal struggles. The group is open to members of both sororities and fraternities, but its members are mainly female.

The founders launched the organization during their freshman year. The group originally started out as a small informal Bible study group for students in Greek life.

"Meera and I first started it together. We both saw that it could be something really cool since we were both involved in InterVarsity Bible study outside of Greek life," Wilkins said. "We saw that other organizations like JiGL [Jews in Greek Life] were able to do it and also wanted to combine the two aspects of our life and bring the IV community into Greek life."

Since then, the group has grown, gaining more members and participating in national conferences.

"The conference we went to a few weeks ago was in Charlotte, N.C.," Valliath said. "A bunch of schools participated, and it was really interesting to see how large Greek IV is in some other schools. It's something

for our group to aspire to as it continues to establish itself."

The weekly meetings are informally structured and attendance is not mandatory. Valliath explained that the group uses weekly Bible passages as a basis for discussing their beliefs and personal struggles.

"We deliberately made it more informal because we wanted everyone to feel welcome, even those that are just curious," Valliath said. "There are times when we share serious stories and we'll end up crying and really opening up, and there are other times when we go out to dinner and we just laugh for hours over really silly stuff. It's such a trusting, open environment, and I think it's a really great balance between fun and learning."

Whiting talked about the unique role Greek IV played in bridging the two spheres of Christianity and Greek life.

"It's very easy to look at Greek life in a somewhat one-dimensional way, especially if you have no real connection to it. Stereotypically it can seem like Greek life does not agree with Christian values and that there may be a clash between the two. The reason I think Greek IV is cool is because it gives people in general and people in IV a chance to see a different side to Greek life and get past the negative stereotypes," Whiting said. "Also, some Greek members might feel judged by Christians, and even

those that want to join the faith can feel intimidated to jump straight into InterVarsity. Greek IV opens up a safe space between the two communities. It shows that they are definitely not mutually exclusive."

Whiting said that she does not see a fundamental conflict between Christianity and Greek life but that the differences between the two

can serve as a basis for enlightening dialogue.

"Although the three founders are graduating in the spring, they already have junior members who are in training to take over the leadership positions during the upcoming fall semester."

"I'm really excited to see how Greek IV will grow," Wilkins said. "I hope that it will continue to grow in number but intrinsically stay as it is now — as this fun environ-

ment in which members can learn more about their faith and themselves in the process."

All of the sororities at Hopkins currently have members in Greek IV, which gives sisters from different sororities an opportunity to bond. "It's one of the highlights of my week," Whiting said. "I have so much love for the members, and it's a great way to meet these girls from other sororities that I wouldn't otherwise necessarily meet. We do lots of activities within the group like dance parties, and we did a s'mores night. At our meetings someone's always baking."

Valliath emphasized that the group is open to new members. "Anyone can come. You don't need a specific religious background. It's a place for anyone that wants to talk about real things in a fun, comfortable environment," she said. "It really helped me mature as a person and I made some truly deep friendships that had a huge impact on my college experience. For the future, I hope more of the fraternity guys feel more comfortable joining though."

The Greek InterVarsity Christian Bible study group meets each Thursday at 8 p.m. in The Charles.



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTO EDITOR
The group has members from every sorority on campus.

SGA meeting features updates on election procedures

By ALEX DRAGONE

Staff Writer

Upcoming student elections, food improvement and streamlining of the *Hub* were all on the agenda for this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting held on Tuesday evening in the Charles Commons Salon B.

John Corbett, head of the Committee on Student Elections (CSE), provided an update on the upcoming SGA Executive Board election along with new rules for the process.

Corbett announced the information sessions for Executive Board elections, which were held Tuesday and Wednesday.

Students who plan to run for positions must submit their petition forms on March 30. Corbett announced that the submission time for peti-

tions has been restricted to the interval between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on that Monday.

"In the past, turning in the petition form at any time on the day that we say that it's due to the monitor in the Martin Center [was allowed]," Corbett said. "We're actually going to change that a little bit this year, kind of tighten it up, because that's not the best way to do it. To just have everybody coming in and handing it to a monitor, who doesn't really know what's going on or putting it in a folder or something like that."

Corbett explained how, in particular, CSE plans to change the election process.

"So what we're doing this year is... either myself or another member of the CSE, as well as [Director of Student Activities] Rob

Turning, are going to be there. And you're going to turn in your submission form to Rob or one of the members of the CSE."

Corbett also an-

nounced that the CSE will be asking candidates to scan and email their petition forms.

March 30 will also be the day of the Executive Board candidates debate. The debate will feature two rounds of questions directed to the candidates by members of the CSE and one round of questions from the audience.

"That should be a little fun. It got interesting last year," Corbett said.

Voting for the Executive Board will take place April 3-5. Results will be announced on April 6.

Voting for Class Council elections will take place from April 17-19 and results will be announced on April 20.

Corbett also announced that a retreat will be held for newly elected SGA members and that this year's electronic voting will include a club census in which students will write which clubs they are a part of and how many hours per week they participate.

"If we can get the word out to student groups then we actually have a way to increase voter turnout," Corbett said. "Heads of student groups are going to want their members to come out and indicate that they're members of those groups because

that could maybe impact funding."

Laura Supple, a member of Real Food Hopkins, spoke at the meeting about her group's work and possible SGA involvement. Real Food Hopkins is the University's chapter of the Real Food Challenge.

"Real Food Challenge kind of takes advantage of the fact that universities, as institutions, have a tremendous amount of purchasing power in the food system," Supple said. "And it also kind of deals with the fact that as customers of the campus food system, we have a right to kind of have a say in what sort of food systems our dollars support."

Real Food Hopkins works with the University to encourage the use of more locally grown foods that are produced with ecologically-sound methods in Hopkins eateries. In November of 2013, University President Ronald J. Daniels signed a commitment that the university would spend 35 percent of the University's food budget on such foods by 2020.

"So that was really exciting for us. It was a great step in the right direction," Supple said. "But now we have to make sure that we actually uphold that commitment."

To that end, Real Food Hopkins has a food systems working group, made up of students, dining workers, farmers and others involved in the University's food system, that advocates for greater use of "real" foods. Supple asked of the SGA that some of its members serve on the Food Systems Working group to better represent the student body in making food decisions. Supple said that the University spends 27 to 29 percent of its budget on real foods.

The SGA also discussed ongoing efforts to improve the *Hub*, the University-sponsored website for Hopkins news. Discussion focused around the events page of the *Hub*, which lists upcoming activities on campus. In the past year the events page has become much more comprehensive.

Members advocated for increased use of pictures next to events for a sleeker design, integration with the daily announcements and listing events happening in Baltimore.

Lastly, the SGA began the process of extensively revising the Undergraduate Student Government Association Constitution, a process that will continue in the coming weeks.



NANCY KIM/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
SGA members talked about streamlining the *Hub*.

NEWS & FEATURES

Selma trip explores civil rights history

By **SABRINA WANG**
Asst. News & Features Editor

Campus Ministries recently brought 10 students and two faculty members to Selma, Ala. to understand the interaction of different faiths within the civil rights movement.

The trip coincided with 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march to Selma, including Bloody Sunday — the first of three marches where state soldiers assailed unarmed marchers after they passed the county line with weapons and tear gas.

The trip also included visits to Montgomery and Birmingham, allowing the students to learn about the interplay of non-violence and Civil Rights.

Many students, including sophomore Lucy Delgado, felt that the trip was a life-changing experience.

"I was able to meet people working in it and helping to build the roots for a new community in Selma," Delgado wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

The students worked with Freedom Foundation and Southern Poverty Law Center, two nonprofit organizations dedicated to civil rights, education and advocacy.

"I saw the civil rights movement is still going on today," Delgado wrote. "I enjoyed Freedom Foundation volunteers we worked with since they did their best to make this an enriching and reflective experience."

Freshman Ian Markham also had a high opinion of the Freedom Fighters.

"The Freedom Foundation volunteers are such an inspiring group of individuals," Markham wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "They saw the issues in Selma regarding poverty and de facto segregation, and they just up and left their jobs and lives and families in Colorado to move to a poor community among which they are largely unwelcome to fight for basic human rights."

Faith Owkhonda, a junior, felt that the trip provided her with a valuable experience outside of Hopkins that promoted service and connections among members of different faiths.

"Even though Selma is in the midst of a lot of turmoil and racial tensions, the people at the Freedom Foundation were incredibly gracious and loving towards all the spring break groups and seem to have a positive outlook on life despite some of the astounding persecution

they've faced in trying to fight for equality and social justice," Owkhonda wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Other students also felt that the issues that arose in Selma 50 years ago are still unresolved.

Senior Alexis Toliver wrote about the state and stagnant social progress present in Selma in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"Selma is in a terrible state and it will stay this way unless something is done," Toliver wrote. "I was rather perplexed by this discovery considering that most media outlets have been covering the victory of Selma that was 50 years ago."

The series of marches in Selma helped lead to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 where voting rights were granted for all citizens, regardless of race. Martin Luther King, Jr. pushed for the media to cover and publicize the movement, which greatly helped its momentum.

"However, this is simply a facade," Toliver wrote. "Presently, I hope to use media to bring awareness to the terrible state of the city and invoke others to serve and fight against injustice."

Toliver cited five subjects in her letter of concern, one of which included the continued presence of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), a white supremacist hate group.

"The KKK is currently recruiting new members," Toliver wrote. "4,000 recruitment fliers were distributed throughout the city on the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The fliers were packaged with a rock and thrown on to resident's doorsteps."

Other problems Toliver quoted were voter apathy, poverty among Selma's residents and ongoing segregation.

Program Coordinator for Campus Ministries Esther Boyd wrote on the Campus Ministries website about the social issues prominent in Selma, but shared an optimistic view of the future.

"Over the course of our time in Alabama, we understood that these are not problems unique to Selma, but are present across the country, including in our own city of Baltimore," Boyd wrote. "Hopefully, we also returned with some of that hope, joy, and promise, and an eagerness and readiness to put them to work fighting for a future of equality and justice here on our campus and in our community. 50 years later, and we march on."

Markham agreed with Boyd's sentiments.

"I expected this to be a service trip on which we would be helping out a poor community, but I feel like we actually took more away from the community with which we worked than the other way around," he wrote.

By **ABBY BIESMAN**
Staff Writer

The Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS) is currently holding meetings to determine budgets for each academic department.

According to Linda Nathan, KSAS assistant dean of finance, the funding for each department is determined by an algorithm that takes many factors into account including number of faculty, number of majors, number of graduate students and number of courses taught.

"Every department and program has an individualized operating budget, and that is determined based on sort of historical factors," she said.

Another factor that affects budgeting is the cost for department facilities and administration. Sometimes budget re-

adjustments will be made to accommodate ongoing needs for support.

"So every year we meet with every department and program, we have a budget meeting. We present them with what their allocation is going to be," Nathan said.

This allows chairs and administrators to make requests on behalf of chang-

es in their programs. Based on these requests, the budget will be altered.

"For instance, when we built the [Undergraduate Teaching Labs] and expanded undergraduate science education in a really profound way, some of the science departments needed adjustments to their budgets to account for things that they had never done before," Nathan said.

Complications in planning arise when departments enact new programs or when programs funded by specific gifts or endowments need additional

funding.

Also, extraordinary circumstances, such as travel costs, impact funding for some departments.

"Some programs by their very nature have travel as a component of it," Nathan

said. "If you're in Near Eastern Studies, there's an element where you might be going to the Mideast to do a dig. In another department, you know the math department, they're not traveling anywhere necessarily to accomplish their goals and to further their knowledge. It's very individualized here."

Kim Le, an administrative coordinator in the Whiting School of Engi-

neering, also provided some information about their budgeting process. The departments meet with the Dean's Office and the budget requests for the next year are reviewed.

Both historical trends and future requests are taken into account. Many elements can affect the budget, including specialized equipment and lab spaces. While the number of courses remains about the same from year to year, enrollment changes can also affect the budget.

Because of these changes and different needs of programs, Nathan said that two programs that might seem very similar on the surface can have very different budgets.

Budgets can also be changed during the year if necessary.

"The Dean meets with all the chairs on a regular basis, so some things happen during the year through meeting and email exchanges, and changes are made whenever a need arises and its time sensitive," Nathan said.

Certain aspects are generally kept constant like the budget pens and pencils. However, Nathan made sure to point out that this is not a rule. The budgeting department really tries to make sure allocations are made properly so that each department has an appropriate budget to meet its needs.

Jean McGarry, a Writing Seminars department co-chair, said that each department works with

the Dean and that the department heads meet at the annual budget meeting in January.

"Each department head goes alone," McGarry said. "The deans do hold meetings of chairs and all the chairs get together, and they talk about large issues in the college. For the budget meeting, it's each department going separately."

There is a block budget that covers things like hiring staff, copying and furniture. Each school also pays money to the central administration.

The University, according to McGarry, is scrupulous in tracking departmental fund usage.

"They will check very carefully about the classes. If there were low enrollments, they will ask us about those. Other departments have to defend their graduate programs at times. It's a sad thing, but undergraduates are not majoring in the humanities as much as used to be the case," McGarry said.

She also shared that a full time faculty member's salary is based half on teaching and half on research. The sabbatical leave policy for tenured professors was recently altered from every seven to every three years, six semesters of teaching.

"They want to give us some time when we don't have a lot of teaching obligations to do our own work," McGarry said. "It's a very genial process. The school has enough money to continue."

"Undergraduates are not majoring in the humanities as much as used to be the case."

— **JEAN MCGARRY,**
WRITING SEMINARS
DEPT. CO-CHAIR

Hillel leads annual Jewish history trip to Vienna

By **CATHERINE PALMER**
Asst. News & Features Editor

Eleven students went to Vienna, Austria over spring break from March 15 to March 22 to learn about Austrian Jewish history and Viennese culture. The annual trip was organized and subsidized by Hopkins Hillel, which worked in conjunction with the Jewish Welcome Service, an organization in Vienna.

Haley Hochstein, a junior who went on the trip, said it was a unique educational opportunity.

"I found out about the trip to Vienna through Jonathan Falk, the assistant director of Hopkins Hillel. I decided to go on this trip because I really enjoy traveling and immersing myself in new cultures that I have never explored before. I am a natural science major, but aside from science, I particularly enjoy learning about Jewish and Holocaust history. Vienna was the perfect opportunity for me to speak with both historians and educators on these topics," Hochstein wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

According to Hochstein, students had to apply to go on the trip.

"I filled out an interest form in October, and was informed in late November/early December that I had a spot. Most of the itinerary was set by January, with a few last-minute items arranged in late February and early March," Hochstein wrote.

According to Falk, the trip leader, Hillel advertised the trip through Facebook and in its own Hopkins Hillel newsletter. Hillel originally designed

the trip for 10 students, but expanded it to accommodate an additional student.

According to Hochstein, attendees toured Vienna with a specific focus on its Jewish history.

"The major activities that the group took part in were meeting with Holocaust survivors, meeting with historians who research Austrian Jewry, meeting with politicians, parliament members, and journalists who discussed both the current political scene in Austria and recent anti-Semitic events across Europe, attending authentic Austrian Shabbat services and meals, meeting with high school student of a Jewish day school in Vienna, and visiting Mauthausen concentration camp," Hochstein wrote. "Other activities included free time exploring the old city of Vienna, going on tours of the Jewish Museum and Parliament building, meeting with a representative from the Austrian National Fund, meeting with the president of Centropa [a Jewish historical institute based in Vienna], exploring famous museums, celebrating Shabbat with students from a Hillel-like group at the University of Vienna, and experiencing the coffee and cake culture."

Hochstein thought the visit to the Mauthausen concentration camp stood out.

"Although this visit was hard, I really loved learning about the ins and outs of this camp from our tour educator, information that you can't find in any history book. This visit posed so many questions in my mind, and I think it's so important that these questions are discussed with

regards to Holocaust education," Hochstein wrote.

She also thought the Shabbat dinner a powerful experience.

"I was most surprised by how much I loved my experience celebrating Shabbat in Vienna. Our group had a traditional, Eastern European Modern Orthodox Shabbat services in Stadttempel, which is the only synagogue in Austria that was not destroyed on November 10, 1938 (Kristallnacht)," Hochstein wrote. "It was really moving to stand in the temple and think about the historical significance of the building, and celebrate Shabbat with the small Austrian Jewish community who considers this temple a safe place."

Freshman Jared Mayer was surprised by the vibrant Jewish community.

"Despite there being cultural anti-Semitism, the Jews of Austria felt very Austrian and were extremely proud to be Austrian," Mayer wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I always assumed that Jews in Austria or any other relatively small Jewish community in Europe, would want to go elsewhere — say, America or Israel — but they were in fact very happy there. It continues to surprise me."

Falk, who led the trip, was impressed by the students' interest in Austrian Jewish culture.



COURTESY OF HALEY HOCHSTEIN
Eleven students traveled to Vienna over spring break.

"I love to have students who choose to learn about European Jewry through the lens of past, present and future over going nuts on a spring break trip to Cancún," Falk said.

Mayer said that he bonded with the other students on the trip.

"I believe that the time spent there allowed me to really get to know the other participants very well. I am very friendly, if not good friends, with all of the fellow participants on the program," Mayer wrote.

Hochstein would suggest the trip to other students.

"I would definitely recommend this trip to any of my friends that are interested. Vienna is a wonderful city full of history, and although everyone in my group had different interests, the Vienna trip provided so many different experiences that appealed to almost all of our widespread interests," Hochstein wrote.

"There is so much to be learned by traveling and exploring new cultures. All of our tour educators were phenomenal and so well-versed in their historical studies. They really made our experience excellent."



COURTESY OF LUCY DELGADO
Students visited historically significant sites in Selma.

NEWS & FEATURES

Committee prepares to review divestment requests Hopkins to face Title IX review

By CATHERINE PALMER

Asst. News & Features Editor

The Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) — a group of students, faculty and staff that determines whether the University's Board of Trustees is investing the school's endowment in a socially responsible manner — is currently formalizing its procedures and guidelines before allowing members of the Hopkins community to come forward with investment proposals.

The University formed a similar investment committee in 1978, and it remained active through the late 1990s. According to Paul Pineau, the vice provost for strategic initiatives, the new PIIAC was formed in part because Refuel Our Future, a student activist group, wants the University to divest its endowment from fossil fuels.

"The University decided that reconstituting the Committee would be helpful in addressing the issues raised by students about fossil fuels, but also other issues of substantial social concern that might arise," Pineau wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Committee Chair Jon

Faust, an economics professor, said PIIAC is creating procedures for proposal acceptance.

"The trustees have given us some instructions, and part of the those instructions were to fill out some guidelines for proposals and exactly how our review process would work," Faust said. "We're now finalizing our procedures."

Once the procedures for debate and guidelines for proposals are finalized, PIIAC will begin accepting proposals. According to Faust, the committee will be ready to start that process in the near future.

Faust said all students, faculty and staff are welcome to come forward with proposals for PIIAC. When people submit proposals, there will be no ceiling on the amount of funds that they are asking the University to consider investing.

The committee is composed of nine faculty and staff members from multi-

ple University schools and offices, as well as three student members. According to Pineau, Provost and Senior President for Academic Affairs Robert Lieberman and Daniel Ennis, the senior vice president for fi-

nance and administration, selected the committee members.

"Over 100 students, across our campuses and divisions, applied. The University was looking for people who

displayed a thoughtful approach to complex issues and are committed to considered deliberation," Pineau wrote.

Cynthia Jin, a student at the School of Medicine, said she feels that the faculty committee members value her opinions.

"I have especially noticed an appreciation for the perspective of students. During several discussions, non-student members have explicitly brought up, 'how would students respond to this,'

"I have especially noticed an appreciation for the perspective of students."

— CYNTHIA JIN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT

Student dealer and user expose illicit exchanges of Adderall

Students anonymously detail their experiences with using Adderall and other ADHD drugs for productivity and recreation

ADDERALL, FROM A1

The first anonymous student proclaimed Adderall is his or her party drug of choice.

"Now I'm more inclined to party using Adderall, or, if I can, cocaine, but Adderall is a very cheap alternative to cocaine," the student said. "You're zoned in, so it allows you to stay later up at night. But it intensifies what you're doing, and you're on top of your game. You're talking to people, and you feel like you're dominating the social circle that you're in, in some occasions. Others you're just dominating the conversation. You feel like you've got this leg up on whatever it is that you're doing... It adds this effect of confidence and center."

That student also noted that Adderall has two varieties. The standard IR version instantly releases the drug, whereas Adderall XR takes a longer time to kick in.

"[For partying], Adderall is the way to go. Snort it. You would crush it, and it'd have to be instant release," the student said.

The second anonymous student said he or

she often used amphetamines socially.

"[I'd use them] typically in a party setting... I never took them alone," the student said.

That student spoke about using Adderall, Focalin and Ritalin, the last two of which are also used to treat ADHD. The student has stopped using amphetamines and now prefers to use cocaine and MDMA.

"[With cocaine and MDMA], I don't focus on anything on them," the student said. "It's like lack of focus. It's enjoyable... [Amphetamines] let me think about one thing too much because your brain always goes faster on them. The focus was just too much for me. Your brain always got caught up on something. If I was on it and crushing another pill, I would just crush that pill for 20 minutes, and that was just too much focus on it."

According to the first anonymous student, many other students who have medical prescriptions for amphetamines deal their pills to their friends.

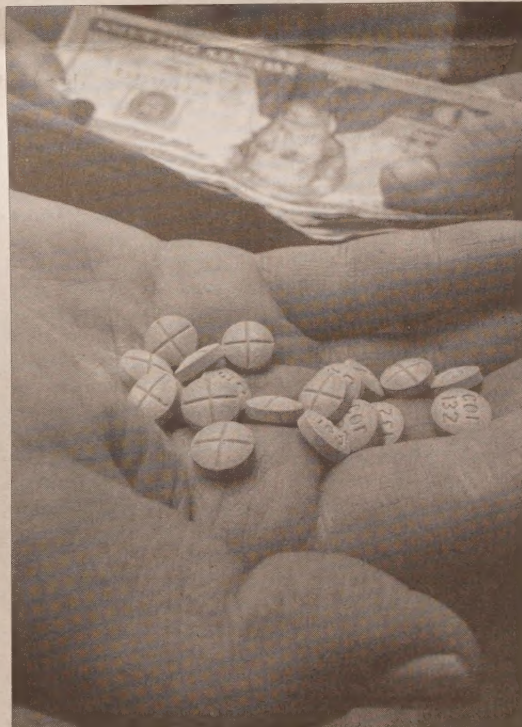
"I have friends who get prescribed, and then

they sell it to me," the student said. "One of my friends — his doctor is prescribing him 120 mg of amphetamines every day for the foreseeable future. His doctor is giving him 50 mg of Adderall and 70 mg of Vyvanse. It's an insane amount. It's irresponsible, but I guess that reflects the culture these days of the amphetamine business in the medical sector."

Despite the demand for amphetamines on campus, the student said that theft is rare.

"Nobody steals them," the student said. "And nobody is going to make copies. So I mean unless you're getting your stuff from some kind of Mexican cartel that's making fake pills, there's really nobody that makes them other than the companies that are legally allowed to make them in the U.S."

The student described that the amphetamine trade at Hopkins has a relaxed atmosphere based on the personal connections between users. He said he could get in contact with 12 different people who sell amphetamines and knows



NANCY KIM/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

An expansive illegal network of both dealers and users of amphetamines like Adderall used to treat ADHD operates underground at Hopkins.

around 80 people who use them.

"[I only sell] to people I know," the student said. "It's just on a request basis, and it's basically just shuffling around, because I'll even make a couple bucks off it, but not at a dealer level. As a favor. The drug gets around more through these kind of friend relationships, like 'Oh, can I have an Adderall here and there and there?'"

The student described some of the side effects experienced while taking amphetamines.

"All of them screw up your eating," the student said. "Those drugs, they inhibit your hunger. You take them on an empty stomach in the morning, and you just won't eat for six to eight hours on an empty stomach. You definitely come down after you use it, and there's this point where your

sion and making an opinion," Faust said. "Some topics would be more complicated than others. I hope we can be expeditious, but we'll have to see what the proposal is."

With the school year winding down, Faust is unsure whether PIIAC will continue to operate during the summer months or during future school holidays.

"We'd need to have a quorum to do official business [and] that can be difficult in the summer at a university. But we [PIACC] don't have an official position on when we're on vacation and when we're not," Faust said.

According to Faust, PIIAC wants to keep the Hopkins community informed about its work and welcomes feedback.

"We're going to try to be very open, and we're going to try to post as much as we can on this website about our business, about our minutes, about decisions we've made, about the proposals that've come in," Faust said. "Folks in the University community would be able offer their opinions. The idea is to engage in a fulsome dialogue where the community is moved to action."

Hopkins to face Title IX review

OCR, FROM A1

Officer Caroline Laguerre-Brown and Title IX Coordinator Allison Boyle stated. "The University is cooperating with that investigation."

Starting on March 31, the OCR will be conducting focus groups with students to discuss sexual harassment and sexual violence issues. These focus groups are a regular part of the investigation process, and the OCR will be taking notes throughout the discussions, although no individuals will be identified by name.

"Students are invited to participate and can comment on whatever aspects of the University's handling of sexual harassment and sexual violence cases they wish," the press release stated.

Freshman Jessica Wu said that although she does not plan on attending a focus group session, she supports the investigation.

"As soon as I got into JHU, I got in touch with my old friend from high school who goes here, and her one piece of advice was not to go to parties due to the gang rape," Wu said. "I feel like parties are a big part of college life that I'm missing out on, but I'm safeguarding myself."

Freshman Caroline Greydak, who attended several fraternity parties, also does not plan to attend a focus group session, saying it would not be beneficial to her if it was "all talk, no action" and that there should be policies enforced, not just a meeting.

"[The investigation] makes me question the security at our school, and it makes me scared," Greydak said. "I don't know if this investigation is a good thing or a bad thing, but it will be interesting to see how it goes."

Before the OCR's investigation was launched, the University had been working for more than a year to enhance policies, programs and resources regarding sexual violence.

"We have brought new policies, programs and response procedures online as they have been readied, and we have kept students and the rest of the campus community regularly informed as we have done so," the press release said.

According to the press release, for the 2014-15 academic year, the University has established a new process to ensure clear and rapid assessment of the need to provide security related to the campus community. It also announced a new position that would ensure compliance with the Clery Act security notification requirements and an expansion of the 24/7 helpline to cover all Hopkins campuses in the area.

According to the press release, the University does not know when the OCR will conclude its review. If Hopkins is found culpable of violating Title IX policies, the University could potentially lose all federal funds. In most cases, however, Title IX investigations conclude with the university in question making changes to its current policies to comply with federal law in a resolution agreement.

Errata: March 12 Edition

In the March 12, 2015 edition of *The News-Letter*, an article stated that former Dean of the School of Medicine Edward Miller is still in office. The current dean is Paul B. Rothman.

Additionally, Hadi al-Bahra was quoted in an article on FAS saying that he believes ISIS has had a greater negative effect on Syria than the Assad regime did. He actually said that ISIS has been no worse than the dictatorship, and his quote should read "The regime of Assad has stolen..." not "The regime of ISIS has stolen..."

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

New MCAT changes pre-meds' studies

MCAT, FROM A1
Miller said. "It's very stressful not having study materials to really go off of and not having as many practice tests. I think that's probably the biggest challenge." This unease about the lack of practice materials is common among many prospective MCAT-takers, particularly those like Miller, who hope to start medical school in 2016. Miller is currently enrolled in a self-paced Princeton Review course.

Miller isn't the only Hopkins student concerned about the new MCAT. Yi Shao, a junior neuroscience major and the president of the Women's Pre-Health Leadership Society (WPHLS), said that the new test is a popular subject at her club's meetings. Nearly all of WPHLS's 38 members plan to attend medical school.

"I, myself, am taking the new MCAT in June, and there was a lot of talk with my peers about whether they would take the old or the new one," Shao said. "The majority of my friends both at Hopkins and home have chosen to take the old one because there are at least 156 years of prep material."

Shao said that she and her fellow WPHLS members have heard from the advisors in the Pre-Professional office that medical schools are always in pursuit of holistic doctors but will now take more interest in social competencies — practical professional skills — than they have in years past.

Sociology professor Emily Agree, who teaches the course "Sociology of Health and Illness," wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that although she does not plan to structure her syllabus around the test, she believes that a basic knowledge of sociology is useful in the practice of medicine.

"Changes in our population have contributed to an evolution in the practice of medicine," Agree wrote. "I do agree that this understanding is fundamental to good clinical practice and being a more holistic physician."

Agree wrote that her course addresses how social disparities affect health care.

"In social science we

examine and evaluate evidence outside of laboratory or clinical settings, asking students to critically examine the social context of health and evaluate its contribution to illness and well being," Agree wrote. "The recognition that critical thinking and ability to obtain knowledge is more important than memorization has been a long time coming, and our students benefit from the capacity to discriminate among different types of evidence and to access the dynamic compendium of medical knowledge."

According to Katie Cruit, a pre-health advisor, about 450 juniors, seniors and Hopkins alumni are applying to medical school this year. In the freshman class alone, about 800 students have expressed interest in the pre-med track.

Cruit said that the new MCAT is changing students' plans across the board; some hurried to take the old test, while others have committed to taking the newer version. According to Cruit, about 60 percent of Hopkins students opt for a gap year before medical school.

Nevertheless, Cruit said she believes the new MCAT is an important step for future physicians.

"One of the reasons the MCAT changed is because medicine has changed significantly," Cruit said. "Medical schools are looking for different things in candidates, and the MCAT had to catch up. It will project a student's success in medical school. The purpose of this new MCAT is to get a better sense of a student in a much more holistic sense because the material on the MCAT is broadening. It's including the social sciences, the social determinants of health, things that are much more prevalent in current health-care today."

Because of this shift in focus, Cruit says that she and her advising team are encouraging students to pursue a background in biochemistry, psychology, sociology and statistics.

Cruit said that they are also working closely with professors to ensure that students are receiving adequate preparation in order to attain a good score. What exactly an impressive score is, however, remains to be seen.

Keret discusses writing, Israeli culture

BY JESSUP JONG
Staff Writer

Over 50 people attended a talk by Israeli author and filmmaker Etgar Keret on Tuesday called "Is Reality Overrated?"

At the event, which was sponsored by CHAI and Hillel, Keret read aloud a few of his short stories, including the title piece of his latest book, *Suddenly, a Knock on the Door*. This story describes an interesting encounter between a lonely writer, Keret, and several rogues who forcefully demand that he tells them a story.

"He misses the feeling of creating something out of something. That's right — something out of something. Because something out of nothing is when you make something up out of thin air, in which case it has no value. Anybody can do that," Keret read.

Keret emphasized that short stories are important to him.

"For me, stories are a way of discovering or articulating things that I always felt but was unable to tell," Keret said.

Keret described his writing process as very different from that of typical writers.

"The process that I experience is much more like surfing," Keret said. "I really don't know where it is going to take me. What I'm focused [on] is keeping my balance. The equivalent of keeping your balance is finding the right tone that will keep the story going. Only when I look at the text, edit and think about it, I can make the connections."

Keret also discussed what makes a good story.

"I prefer the badly written good story to the well written story," Keret said. "When I think about the best stories I've heard in my life, they weren't necessarily from the most articulate people, but it was from the people who cared the most about what they were talking about. There was something contagious about the way they cared."

Keret also cited the element of surprise as something that stands out to him in well-written works.

"What I love is to be surprised by the story," Keret said. "Let a story begin [in] one spot and take me to a totally different place."

Keret described the feeling of safety that he gains from writing fiction.

"When you write fiction, it is a perfect protection, because they are like a cipher. When people read stories, they can recognize the motion, but they cannot recognize the context," Keret said. "It's a perfect hiding mechanism."

Keret explained how with his memoir, *The Seven Good Years*, he was not able to benefit from the protection of fiction.

"With non-fiction it doesn't work," Keret said. "It was a very strange experience for me to write non-fiction."

Keret read aloud from "Pastrami," the last story in *The Seven Good Years*, which will be published in the U.S. this June.

"He's seven, and seven is the age when it's not considered cool to talk about fear, so the word 'nervous' is used instead," Keret said.

"Pastrami" records the experience of the war through the eyes of Lev, Keret's son. Pastrami is the game that his family



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Keret is an acclaimed Israeli writer whom CHAI brought to Hopkins.

plays during air-raid sirens in Israel.

"What was difficult for me was not so much the war itself but the fact that, for the first time, there was a feeling as if the society was split in a very radical way," Keret said. "If I were against the government and expressed my ideas, I would receive death threats."

Keret shared an excerpt from this story with his audience.

"Yesterday, he came to school with a piece of iron from the last rocket, and it had the symbol of the company on it and the name in Arabic. Why did it have to explode so far away?" Keret read.

"Pastrami" articulates Keret's effort to shield Lev from the harsh realities of war.

"A lie is very much like an object — a knife or a hammer," Keret said. "If you use it to hang a picture, it's nice. If you bang a person with it, it's not nice."

CHAI Secretary and sophomore Gabriela Mizrahi, who also ran the event, enjoyed listening to Keret speak.

"He has an amazing literary voice which showcases the absurd in every-

day situations," Mizrahi said. "I'm really happy about the event. So many people were interested and able to come out."

Junior Jonathan Weinreich, president of Hopkins Hillel, was pleased with the quality of the speaker.

"He was a lot funnier in person than I thought he would be. He's really witty when he writes, but he's really funny in person," Weinreich said.

Mizrahi explained the reasoning behind CHAI's decision to host Keret.

"We want people to see how rich and deep Israeli culture is. We'd like to show that there is so much more than the politics and headlines," she said. "What I like most about Israeli culture is the peculiarity of having such a diverse population in such a small country. That diversity really contributes to the depth of culture."

Amir Bavler, the Israel Fellow at Hopkins Hillel, also had a favorable reaction to the event.

"It provides a different point of view of Israel culture," Bavler said. "This is Israel for me. Israel is culture, music, human rights — everything."

Hopkins housing dynamic differs from Princeton, GW

HOUSING, FROM A1
renovations to Wolman Hall and the acquisition of Hopkins Inn, freshman housing options have remained static for several years. Recent updates to sophomore housing include renovations in McCoy Hall and the construction of Charles Commons in 2006.

According to Mohr, the University is also working to make improvements in existing residential buildings.

"We have been renovat-

ing bathrooms and kitchens in all of our buildings over the past several years and we are on our final building, the Homewood, this year. We'll be starting on the 6th floor this summer and the other residential floors will follow (5, 4 and 3)," Mohr wrote. "We have also replaced student room furniture in McCoy and half of Wolman Hall; the second half of Wolman will be replaced this summer. A less exciting but necessary improvement will be the replacement of the McCoy roof this summer."

Mohr also wrote that her office plans to continue working to advance student life in general.

"We continue to work with Bon Appétit to ensure Hopkins students have one of the best food programs available," Mohr wrote. "Also, we have embarked on a strategic planning process to examine options for programmatic and physical changes that will enhance all aspects of undergraduate students' residential and campus life, whether they live on campus or off campus."

Other colleges that are similar to Hopkins address housing in different ways.

At Princeton University, students are placed in a random residential college and remain affiliated with it for their entire undergraduate careers, even if they choose to live in a non-residential college upperclassman dorm. According to Princeton's website, 98 percent of un-

dergraduates live on campus. However, juniors and seniors can live off campus, even though rent is high and apartments are scarce.

Princeton freshman Terry Rossi said he was satisfied with the housing system at Princeton and praised the many options available.

"I'm mostly satisfied with my housing. The location is very good, and all the housing options are very livable," Rossi said. "My only complaint is lack of AC, no sink in my room and the location of the bathrooms in the basement."

Rossi stated that over the next three years, he can only move into nicer dorm rooms.

"I am excited for next year. I currently live in the oldest and worst building in my residential college, so there's nowhere to go but up. Next year, I'll almost definitely have a sink, AC, newer facilities and more access to college amenities like our convenience store and common spaces," Rossi said.

Princeton employs a lottery system for all sophomores and upperclassmen, enabling students to choose the specific rooms they want, but the lottery number depends on the size of the group of students who enter together.

"Our lottery system works as follows: we join a draw group with students we intend to live with or near. The more people in your group, the more likely you are to have a better draw time. Based on your

group, you are assigned a short window for the members of the group to select a room," Rossi said.

There are no Greek life-affiliated housing options at Princeton.

At George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C., there are two campuses where freshmen can be placed, Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon. Students are placed randomly into each hall, although some students do get priority housing.

"Our system is random, but with preferences. Some people like ED [Early Decision] freshmen and recruited sports kids get first crack," Paige Davis, a freshman at GW, said.

GW also employs a lottery system for sophomore housing.

"I'm very excited. You put your preferences in order along with your roommates' ID numbers," Davis said.

Greek life housing is available at GW, and many students in Greek life choose it as an option, according to Davis.

Nikita Singh, a junior at Hopkins who has lived in AMR II, Charles Commons and now a row home, expressed the positives and negatives of her own experiences in the housing system.

"AMR II was perfect for the community it created. This made the lack of community in Charles Commons all the more apparent. However, my favorite now is living in the row house because of the independence," Singh said.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Hollaback! works to counter harassment



COURTESY OF WILL ANDERSON

Michaels and Oliver told the audience that harassment is never okay.

By WILL ANDERSON
Staff Writer

LGBTQ Life at JHU hosted a workshop on Wednesday night in Hackerman Hall in conjunction with Hollaback! Baltimore, an organization dedicated to combatting the daily issue of street harassment against women and members of the LGBTQ community.

The event was held as part of Women's History Month as well as part of the LGBTQ+ event series.

Hollaback!, co-directed by Leah Michaels and Brittany Oliver, was started in 2005 as a blog site to discuss street harassment and was accelerated by the story of a woman who took a picture of a man who was masturbating on the subway in front of her and shared it online. Stories can be submitted anonymously on the website, which is allowed, in order to create a safe online space to share stories of sexual harassment.

The main mottos of the campaign are "I don't accept street harassment, I holla back" and "Leveraging technology to end gender-based violence in public spaces."

The discussion was prefaced by videos of women relating their experiences with street harassment and catcalling and sharing their desire to be able to wear whatever clothing they wish. It included the testimony of a former Miss Washington, D.C. who related her story of sexual assault on the D.C. Metro.

Women experience street harassment including vulgar name-calling, inappropriate touching, exposure by men and stalking every day as they walk to work or their homes. According to Stop Street Harassment, 99 percent of women reported that they had experienced street harassment. People can begin suffering from harassment and the effects of rape culture as early as middle or junior high school, according to the campaign.

"Men are more likely to harass, and women are more likely to be targets, but women can harass, especially trans folks, gays and lesbians," Oliver said.

What the speakers referred to as the "death spiral" of cultural street harassment leads to bullying, workplace violence, domestic violence, violent crime and rape worldwide. Gay and transgender people are more likely to have been sexually harassed and assaulted.

Men often see street harassment as a minor issue and perceive some unwanted comments toward women as being flattering, even if they don't appreciate or want it.

"It depends on how it makes you feel. If it's un-

wanted, then it's street harassment," Oliver said. "It's important to advocate ways that you can help and we can fight against this."

The program advised attendees on how to respond to harassers, including using strong body language, projecting confidence, making it clear that harassment is never wanted and never apologizing or losing one's temper.

During the discussion some students reported feeling uncomfortable or violated by vocal harassment from male Hopkins security guards.

"Respond any way you feel comfortable. There's no one right way to respond to street harassment," Oliver said.

Bystander intervention was stressed as an effective way to help fight harassment. Other ways to fight street harassment are to protest and spread the word with friends, colleagues and online.

Hollaback! Baltimore's Safer Spaces Campaign creates safe places in public places and businesses, such as Sugar and Red Emma's, where women and LGBTQ community members can go without feeling threatened or harassed.

"If a bar wants to have female patrons, they ought to make it more female friendly. The bar staff rarely intervenes," Oliver said.

A member of the audience asked Michaels what the first step to ending street harassment would be.

"I think the first step is to get people to realize that it is a real societal issue and that it is connected to violence against women and violence against the LGBTQ community," Michaels said.

Michaels was also asked what she would say to a young girl who has experienced street harassment for the first time.

"I would first tell her that nothing that happens to her is ever her fault. Sharing your story is always incredibly important. Second, I would tell her to do anything she needs to do to help herself, whether that's writing her story down online or in a diary. Third, I would tell her to learn something about verbal and physical self-defense," Michaels said.

Sophomore Lucy Delgado, who attended the event, also learned that people who are not directly being harassed can help reduce instances of harassment.

"I learned that you could also help someone just by being a bystander, and it's really important because even if it hasn't happened to you, then you can still help someone," Delgado said.

Yik Yak and BuzzFeed meet in WhatsGoodly

By ABBY BIESMAN
Staff Writer

WhatsGoodly, an interactive polling app started at Stanford University, has just launched at Hopkins.

Sophomore Griffin Morgan, the WhatsGoodly brand ambassador at Hopkins, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that he became involved with the project early on.

"My good friend from high school, Chris Sebastian, has been developing the app with a group at Stanford and asked a few close friends to help develop the user base within East Coast colleges," Morgan wrote. "My main role is mainly as ambassador on the East Coast as it has primarily been downloaded on the West Coast and would like to gain some ground out here."

Morgan elaborated on how users can post anonymous polls on the app.

"Users can vote on these as well as post. An example question could be 'major with hardest workload?' with answers being 'a. Econ b. Public Health. c. IS d. Writing Sems.' The app does not have a large presence at Hopkins as of now (I only told a few friends about it yesterday)," Morgan wrote.

According to Morgan, the app can be used to help unite the community.

"The app is great for determining where people are going out (bars, sport team houses, frat houses, downtown) or whether they are going to school events like Spring Fair or a lacrosse game," Morgan wrote.

Because of the app's public nature, people can post any poll with any responses using names or topics of their choice. While there is a filter that only allows people ages 17 and up to download the app on Apple's App Store, there is additional censorship to prevent cyber-bullying.

The app seems to have gained a quick following within the couple of days it has been on campus.

"From looking at the number of votes on individual polls it has grown substantially pretty quickly. I would say there are somewhere from 30-60 users as of now. I have been spreading it through just word of mouth with friends," Morgan wrote.

Freshman Catie Orlando wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that she enjoys using the app.

"It's got the college campus vibe and consumer base of Yik Yak and the quiz format of BuzzFeed," Orlando wrote. "Are questions personal? Yes. Are they playfully offensive? Yes. Are they hilarious? Yes. I like it plenty."

Morgan plans to try to spread the app through the Greek community at Hopkins.

"I'm hoping from there it expands to whoever is interested. I chose to target the Greek community because that seems like the best way to get it to expand rapidly by word of mouth," Morgan wrote.

The app does, in some ways, provide a similar platform to Yik Yak. Both have statements that people can vote for on a public platform. The difference is that Yik Yak allows users to vote on whether agree or disagree with statements, whereas Whatsgoodly allows people to vote on which statements they concur with most. Both apps allow people to post whatever they want anonymously.

"It is more about getting a general idea of your community's opinion rather than just anonymously posting," Morgan wrote. "But again that's my personal opinion and does not have to do with the owners' original vision."

Morgan also elaborated on the company's name.

"The name is from California lingo. It's something you would say to your friend as in 'what's good' equals 'what's up,'" Morgan wrote.

Morgan also has helped Circa Black, a specialty

debit card company. According to the Circa Black website, it is the world's first metal debit card.

Circa Black customers receive a \$5 gift card to Nike, Domino's Pizza, Papa John's Pizza, CVS/pharmacy, GameStop, Adidas or Buffalo Wild Wings when they sign up for the card.

There are a few elements of the card that make it unique. Similar to the app, Venmo, people can share money with other users. It also allows them to check their balances and transaction history on their app.

"Once again, a friend from high school asked me to help promote it. They were targeting elite colleges," Morgan wrote.

Morgan differentiated between the advertising techniques he used for both companies.

"For Circa Black, I just carried the card around and explained the benefits to purchasing one. It's a very flashy black metal credit card that was laser-cut. So, whenever I used it, people were very intrigued," Morgan wrote. "So, while Whatsgoodly was more word of mouth, Circa Black involved a more public display of the card and then having people inquire."

Jane Jeffery contributed reporting.

HONY's Brandon Stanton encourages passion, risk

FAS, FROM A1
job market, Stanton discussed how he constantly feared losing his job.

"I was trading money to make money," Stanton said. "I was always telling myself the primary way to keep score [in bond trading] is to make money, and I always thought 'I'll just make this money, and then I'll do something I really love. I'll make this money and I'll maybe start a company, pursue the arts or something of that sort.'"

It was thanks to his stressful job that he first decided to pick up photography. Having won \$3,000 in a bet on a football game, Stanton decided to splurge it all on an expensive camera.

"I needed something to compartmentalize my life," Stanton said. "I would go to downtown Chicago every day I wasn't working, and I'd just photograph everything, and I just loved doing it."

Stanton credits his nascent love for photography as the impetus for the creation of HONY. After he was fired from his job, Stanton took to honing his photography skills in order to motivate himself to keep working. No longer bound to his Chicago day job, Stanton had the time to pursue his passions.

"[HONY] wasn't some sort of grand idea that I had... it just came out of my love of photography and [has been] constantly evolving, evolving and evolving," Stanton said. "If I had [kept on] waiting for that perfect idea, if I had waited for 'I'm gonna stop and learn about photography more before I share their stories,' I would never have gotten here."

Initially, HONY started out purely as a photography blog. Stanton discussed how he greatly enjoyed capturing the diversity of people on the Chicago subways, so he came up with the idea

of taking 10,000 photos and stitching them together digitally to create a location map of humans in New York.

"Everyone was just there and on the streets walking around and I said

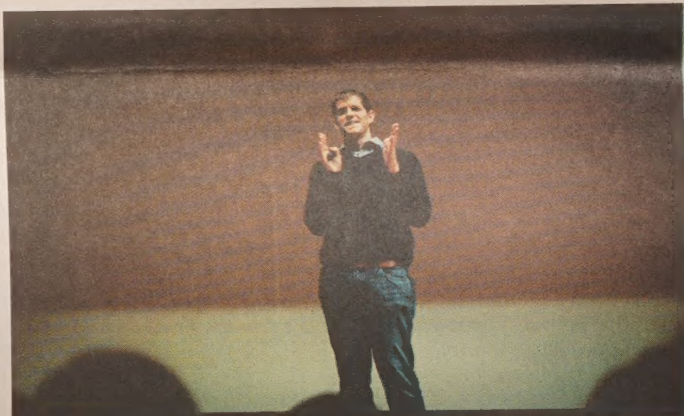
'Wow, I can make a really amazing website even if I've only been photographing for a few months,'" Stanton said. "I packed up my two suitcases with no money [and moved to New York]."

Despite his passion for photography, however, Stanton's initial few years in New York were rough. Surviving on unemployment benefits and occasionally working an odd job or two, Stanton discussed the difficulty in starting any entrepreneurial project.

"The lion's share of the work put in comes before anybody cares about your work, let alone considers buying your product," Stanton said. "It's easy to get your friends and your family to like you on Facebook, but I maxed them out real early. I [had to work] so hard before I had those people I did not know start to follow my work."

Despite the difficulties, Stanton pressed onward. He accumulated a small following, gradually building toward a few hundred followers. It wasn't until months later that HONY went truly viral.

"It was no longer just about the photography as it was me getting over that fear of strangers again," Stanton said. "Isn't the next step just getting over the fear of talking to



SARAH SUKARDI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Stanton told his story of transitioning from bond trading to full-time photography.

strangers, about learning about them?"

Stanton then explained how the blog's explosive growth on social media had generally led him to pursue longer form stories on more regular citizens as opposed to the provocative imagery he initially pursued. He also detailed how he had become an expert at spotting people who seemed prepared for the interviews since he had personally heard hundreds of contrite memorized statements.

Stanton invited a student to the stage in order to demonstrate his interview style. Outlining the basic rules of journalism, Stanton metaphorically compared his interviews to flying a search-and-rescue helicopter.

"[Interviewing someone] is like flying a helicopter far above the ground, searching for someone, looking for something that nobody else has told me before," Stanton said. "You start out with general questions and then swing in lower, finding out what's different, and then swing in even lower."

Stanton wrapped up the presentation by focusing on his hopes for HONY. He said that the center of HONY is the "bubble" that he forms on the street

with a stranger.

"It's not the writing, not the photography, it's that bubble," Stanton said. "Anywhere that bubble goes, HONY goes — HONY is about telling the personal stories of strangers and not just about the photos."

Student attendees appreciated the opportunity to see Stanton, as long lines formed during both the question and answer session and the following book signing.

"I really admired how he can just go up to a stranger and be able to hold such a deep and meaningful conversation," freshman Idy Ding said. "He has an amazing ability to make us see how we're all more similar than we sometimes imagine."

The FAS leadership thought Stanton fit the theme of "Chaos, Catalyst, Clarity."

"We really wanted to get [speakers] relevant to college students this year," Executive Committee Member Sam Romanoff said. "We really wanted to do something with the Internet this year like Facebook and Twitter and such, but those people have been done a number of times... we happened to see Humans of New York, and we all decided he'd make a great speaker for college students."

JOIN the johns hopkins News-Letter

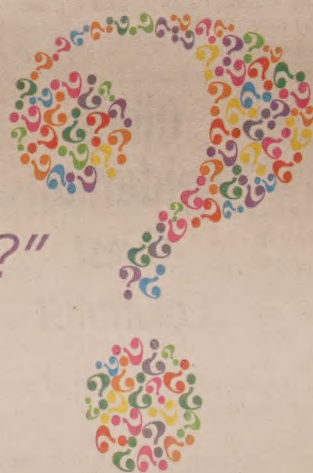
Are you interested in any of the following things?

- Writing about news, sports, science, technology, art, entertainment, campus life, or local events
- Writing your own unique columns or opinion pieces
- Photography
- Graphic illustration or cartoons
- Copy editing
- Layout
- Marketing and public relations
- Social media outreach
- Advertising sales and client management
- Business, finances, or accounting
- Web development or information technology
- Being a part of a 119-year-old club

If so, contact managing@jhunewsletter.com to learn how you can get involved!

Got Your Priority Number?

"Yeah...but what does that mean?"



Join us for

“Making Your Number Work For You!”

a workshop to prepare you for Freshmen Room Selection

When: Friday, March 27th at 3:00 or 4:00 pm

Where: AMR I - Reading Room

Questions or Concerns? Email: confirmation@hd.jhu.edu



HIP HOP

The next generation of COLUMNS is here. This is the place for restaurants, fashion, fitness, cooking, relationships, and lifestyle...

Getting down with the rat-kangaroo



COURTESY OF TOMOSUKE214 VIA FLICKR
The musky rat-kangaroo's size makes it an elusive find in the tropics.

On a rainy day in North Queensland, Australia, we found ourselves tromping through the rainforest of the Wet Tropics, searching for the elusive musky rat-kangaroo. The Wet Tropics bioregion is home to a staggeringly high rate of biodiversity and endemic species, including the musky rat-kangaroo. This small diurnal (day-active) marsupial can be seen hopping through the leaves in a way akin to that of its evolutionary descendants, the kangaroos. At about the size of a rabbit, the musky rat-kangaroo is easily missed; its dark brown coat, small eyes and scaly tail allow it to blend into the deep rainforest underbrush. The secretive mammal lives on the forest floor, building its nests in the buttresses of trees and feeding on native fruits.

Between picking terrestrial leeches off of our legs and listening to the startling crack of the eastern whipbird's call, we circled lakes Eacham and Barrine, pausing to observe the half-eaten fruits littering the rainforest trails — evidence of the musky rat-kangaroo — as we tried to assess its population size. During this spring's wet season survey, our fellow SIT study abroad students were spread across four different locations, each a known musky rat-kangaroo habitat, counting the number of individuals present. The results from these transects would be the third data set in a series of surveys at these sites, the first two occurring in March during the wet season and October during the dry season in 2014. With this third survey, we have begun to uncover a little more about the patterns of the local musky rat-kangaroo population. No similar surveys have been conducted on this species, so our results from this wet season have begun to build a picture of the year-round cycles of this population. At our lake sites, we saw nearly six times as many musky

rat-kangaroos as at the other two sites: Gadgarra National Park and a section of continuous forest in the Gillies Range. Our data highlight that lake habitats may be more suitable for the musky rat-kangaroo, a species which generally tends to prefer wetter areas.

A year earlier, in the 2014 wet season, both lake sites again had more individuals than Gadgarra and the Gillies Range. There was, however, a noticeable population decline at both Barrine and Eacham this year compared to last. This unpredicted decline could be a result of population cycles over multiple years or increasing visitation and recreational use of the popular lake sites.

With this most recent study, we have really begun to understand the annual population cycles associated with breeding and birthing seasons. In the survey preceding ours (October 2014), there was a large increase at all four sites in the population size. At first glance, this upward trend may seem to contradict the population decline between the 2014 and 2015 wet season surveys.

However, a closer look at the life cycle of the musky rat-kangaroo may explain this change; musky-rat kangaroo breeding season is typically February to July, during our wet season surveys. Thus, perhaps the observed smaller population size in the wet seasons may have been because fewer young juveniles were present in the forest compared to during the dry season, post-birthing period.

As Wet Tropics visitation continues to rise, especially at lakes Barrine and Eacham, it is imperative that we work to protect the musky rat-kangaroo's habitat and population. If nothing else, there is an obvious need to continue such surveys in order to gauge the status of the population, as the more information we have, the better we can work to preserve this unique marsupial and the whole of the Wet Tropics.

Spring break: It's more than just a vacation

Spring break drawing to a close feels a lot like how I'd imagine Hannah Montana feels, every night, taking off her blonde wig after a sensational performance and returning to life as Miley Cyrus.

Too much? Well, okay. Let's just say, for those less Disney Channel-inclined, that going from vacation to Hopkins feels like switching between two entirely dissimilar, polarized lives. Delaware Lily and Hopkins Lily: two separate girls, two separate worlds.

This break was different, though. This time, it wasn't the 302 area code that summoned me back. It was, instead, Chicago. I'd never been to this Midwestern wonder, and since my Hopkins best friend Maggie lives in Chicago, it seemed only logical to take this

to get used to the shift, but for those ten days, I blended myself into comforting, Midwestern suburbia. My friends and I, still just college kids with no clue how to make it in the real world, got to rush out into civilization every day and pretend we did, before returning to home-cooked dinners and hot showers — everything handled for us. We lounged around on basement couches and heated microwave popcorn for midnight movies. We were both friends and family, siblings and allies.

In many ways, those moments of "allegiance" were our most invigorating, and the males of our group would probably argue that they were the greatest. One day, for instance, our "squad" of five met up with our friend Nate, who lives in Chicago and was free for a few days before he left for a Hopkins rock climbing course. He took us to see his family's downtown apartment, and it had the most jaw-dropping, incredible view I've seen in all my life. There was a wrap-around balcony that overlooked the whole of the city. When I stood there, right on the edge, I felt like I was soaring. That was a moment to remember.

Or, also, when the six of us ventured into the newly-created Maggie Daley park, a glorified, tricked-out playground for kids. We looked so entirely out of place: big, overdressed 18- and



COURTESY OF ISAAC SINGLETON VIA FLICKR
Chicago was not just a vacation spot; it was a sense of family, friends and adventure.

19-year-olds with no nearby, related youth as an excuse. But we didn't care. We raced down slides like our lives depended on it. That was a moment, too. Or taking a big group picture on the SkyDeck of Sears Tower, or being stopped on the street by a random group trying to sell a hip-hop album. Those were all capital "M," co-conspirators taking on the world, allies tearing down the town, Moments. And I'm grateful for all of them.

By this point in the article, you might be wondering — uh, where do the "prose and pictures" come in? Isn't this girl supposed to be talking about art? Well, I am. Because for me, those capital "M" Moments aren't the only ones I'll remember. They're not even necessarily what I'll remember the most. What I'll remember, truly, are moments like *Cinderella*.

The second night of our Chicago adventure, the five of us went to the movies. My friends Gabby, Maggie and I (particularly Gabby) had a longing for the new *Cinderella*, and the boys, Tommy and Andy, opted for *American Sniper* instead. Yep. Typical. But

despite the cliché-ness of the whole ordeal, our movie night was surprisingly nice. We settled in with buttered popcorn, junior mints and cheesy fries reminiscing about how much we loved those Disney princess years of childhood.

And then the movie itself — beautiful. I won't say *Cinderella* is the next *Shawshank Redemption* or anything, but for what it was and what we expected, it was perfect. So I partially blame this on the fact that I was wear-

ing contacts that day and wasn't used to them: Don't judge me for this — I cried. I was just, somehow, in those hours of quiet bonding and cinematic aesthetics, overcome with emotion. Overcome with the story of the innocent, well-intentioned underdog so abused by the world around her. A simple story, well-told.

To me, that's what Chicago was. Beyond the capital "M" Moments, it was family meals and goofy jokes with Maggie's younger siblings. It was sleeping in and staying up, playing bonding games until 3 a.m. It was being both friends and family — a simple story, well-told.

Lillian Kairis Hopkins in Prose and Pictures

—and take on the Windy City together.

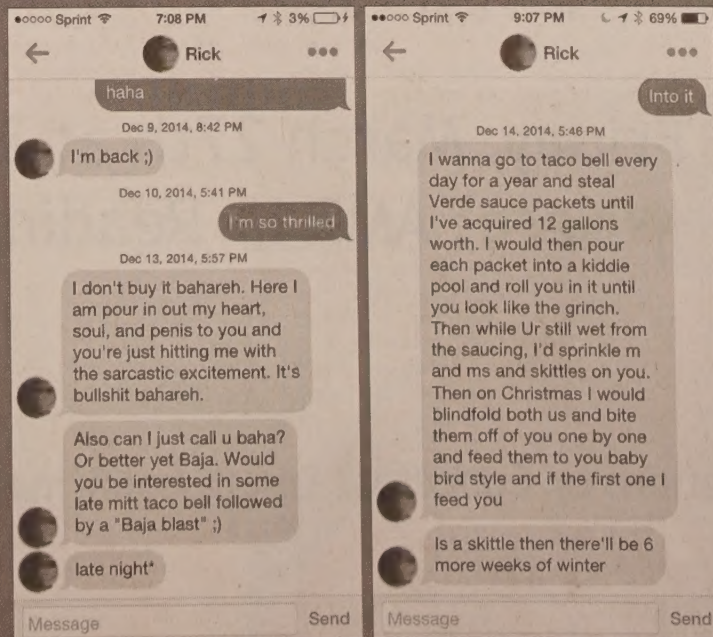
We rampaged Chicago like only Hopkins students can. We were efficient with our days — from the Bean to the parks, from Sears Tower to Navy Pier to Second City Theater. We were luxurious with our stomachs, feasting on deep dish pizza, Garrett's popcorn and Italian beef. We were tourists to the core. But with the strength of our squad-ness, our tight-knit-but-occasionally-bickery, family-style group dynamic, we managed to look adequately un-lame. And we felt ridiculously cool.

Just like it's weird to switch from Hopkins life to vacation and home life, it's weird to suddenly merge those two worlds. Suddenly, I'm eating breakfasts with a family that isn't my own, asking a mother who isn't my own to wash a pair of my leggings. It took a while

to get used to the shift, but for those ten days, I blended myself into comforting, Midwestern suburbia. My friends and I, still just college kids with no clue how to make it in the real world, got to rush out into civilization every day and pretend we did, before returning to home-cooked dinners and hot showers — everything handled for us. We lounged around on basement couches and heated microwave popcorn for midnight movies. We were both friends and family, siblings and allies.

Or, also, when the six of us ventured into the newly-created Maggie Daley park, a glorified, tricked-out playground for kids. We looked so entirely out of place: big, overdressed 18- and

It's Going Down: This Week on Tinder



Send screenshots of your funniest, most awkward Tinder conversations to hiphop@jhnewsletter.com each week, and they may just make it into the next edition of *The News-Letter*! Stay tuned for more awkward Tinder conversations...

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

The lasting legacy of The Sound of Music

I've been meaning to write this article for a few weeks now. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the film *The Sound of Music*, and I am thrilled that the movie has been recognized a lot recently, from articles in magazines to Lady Gaga's medley performance at this year's Oscars. It deserves it. It has touched so many people. I have been told many times by friends that this is their or one of their family member's favorite musical. Although I can't say I have a favorite musical, it is in my top three for sure. Those who know me well know how much this movie means to me.

When I was abroad, one of the first trips I booked was to Austria, a place I have wanted to visit for years. I could say that's because I have distant Germanic blood, but really I believe my fascination with the country stems from this movie. I booked a trip with a student travel company with my dear friend from abroad who also loves the movie.

I spent my Thanksgiving in Vienna eating sachertorte. The next day, we drove to Salzburg and I watched the movie for the umpteenth time and cried the whole way (I don't often cry during movies, but this is one result of being too damn sentimental). In Salzburg, I went on the *Sound of Music* bus tour (I'm not one for bus tours, but this came rec-

ommended and was too cute to pass up).

When the bus stopped in the Lake District near the city, we had one of the most spectacular views I have ever seen. Every tiny alpine building on hills as far as I could see was covered in snow. Then I ate the best wiener schnitzel I have ever had at a Christmas market outside the church where they filmed Maria and Captain von Trapp's wedding. It was one of the greatest trips I ever took.

From now, I will refer to it as a movie because I have never seen the stage version live. However, I would go as far as saying it is probably

the only film version of a musical that I would prefer over the stage version, now and forever.

One of the greatest things about the film is that it has an epic story, based on reality, that is important in our recent history. It also has some of the best music in any musical. My favorite was always "The Lonely Goatherd," but now it's "Edelweiss" for its simplicity and message. I love watching the movie with people who haven't seen it before, just to see their reactions, to see them realize that the famous song that they have heard millions of times came from this film (this mostly comes from the "My Favorite Things" scene).

I started watching it at a very young age with my parents who also love the movie. It was one of those



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH SHERWOOD
The Lake District's views are encapsulating, much like the movie itself.

films that I would watch every day for a period of time until I would occasionally change it up with *The Lion King* and old tapes of *Fraggle Rock*.

I mostly love it because every time I watch it, I see the story in a different way. I learn something new about the characters, about their decisions. When I was three, I only really understood the happy parts. When I grew older, I understood the conflicts. When I learned about World War II in school, it made sense once more. Even watching it on the drive to Salzburg, I saw the struggle that Captain von Trapp had when he stood his ground against the Nazi regime in order to save the country he loved.

I saw courage in Maria that I hadn't seen before. Maria, by the way, is one of the best protagonists to look up to when you are young (and Julie seems

like one of the loveliest actresses of her generation). I sometimes ask myself, "What Would Maria von Trapp Do?" as I sing "I Have Confidence" in the shower. She is one of the major reasons why I love the story. If you look at the lyrics to "I Believe" from *The Book of Mormon*, they are practically the same. It is the quintessential Broadway musical, an example for all.

According to a recent article in *Vanity Fair*, Christopher Plummer was famously not enthused about playing the Captain, which I had heard before, and the movie got horrible reviews when it came out, which was news to me. It's hard to think that such an iconic movie, with the fabulous Julie Andrews running on the cover, opening her arms wide to embrace the sound of music from the hills, could ever have been considered anything but a treasure.

How to cope with April's impending workload:

1. Breathe deeply
2. Mark all due dates and midterms in your calendar
3. Take a beer break on the beach
4. Remember, "Spring Fair, Spring Fair, Spring Fair..."
5. Remember, "Chicken on stick, chicken on stick..."
6. Soak in some rays
7. Exercise to clear your mind
8. Sing songs really, really loudly
9. Eat. A lot.
10. Pray to the curve gods

Buku Festival in The Big Easy: Run the Jewels, Bassnectar and more

Over spring break, I had the privilege of flying down to the great city of New Orleans, "The Big Easy" as it is affectionately called. Life in New Orleans is a completely unique experience, saturated with food, music and of course, exorbitant amounts of booze. I went down there to attend Buku Music and Arts Festival held at Mardi Gras World, a collection of warehouses turned into an event venue that resides on the port of New Orleans. Buku this year featured an eclectic line up, filled with everything from jazzy instrumental groups, deep house acts

and hype hip-hop performances. The festival also provides a showcase for local graffiti artists to exhibit their work. Held at the turn of spring in mid-March, Buku truly kicked off festival season with a bang. Below I detail some of the headline acts and the best performances.

Run the Jewels

Killer Mike has a stage presence unlike any other rapper in the game. His energetic and aggressive rap style combined with his intricate lyricism

make him a force to be reckoned with on the mic. When he and rapper/producer El-P joined forces to form Run the Jewels back in 2013, they found immediate acclaim, particularly for their live performance.

The duo did not disappoint at Buku. Working primarily off of their latest record, *Run the Jewels 2*, Killer Mike and El-P's vitality and interaction with the audience made for a memorable performance. Not many groups can take a 5 p.m. time slot

and turn it into a wild show, and Run the Jewels used their charisma and hype rap style to pump the audience up.

Bassnectar

No matter what you think about Bassnectar's music, no one can deny that the man knows how to feed off an audience's energy and deliver some of the most mind-blowing sets. Bassnectar headlined the main stage at Buku with the prime-time spot of 9 p.m., and

They poured out a 40 (ounce) on stage in his honor and performed an unreleased track...

rowdy on stage. When they performed "Wild for the Night," the hit single featuring Skrillex, Rocky instructed everybody to clear space in the middle to form a mosh pit and wasn't satisfied until all members in the audience were jumping up and slamming into each other. Rocky also shed light on why he

hasn't released an album in over two years, explaining that he has been taking time off to work on his skills as a producer. The crew also paid

tribute to founder A\$AP Yams, who passed away last month as result of an overdose. They poured out a 40 (ounce) on stage in his honor and performed an unreleased track for the deceased producer. A\$AP Mob is renowned for its animated performances, and they were excited to be playing in New Orleans, a city known for partying.

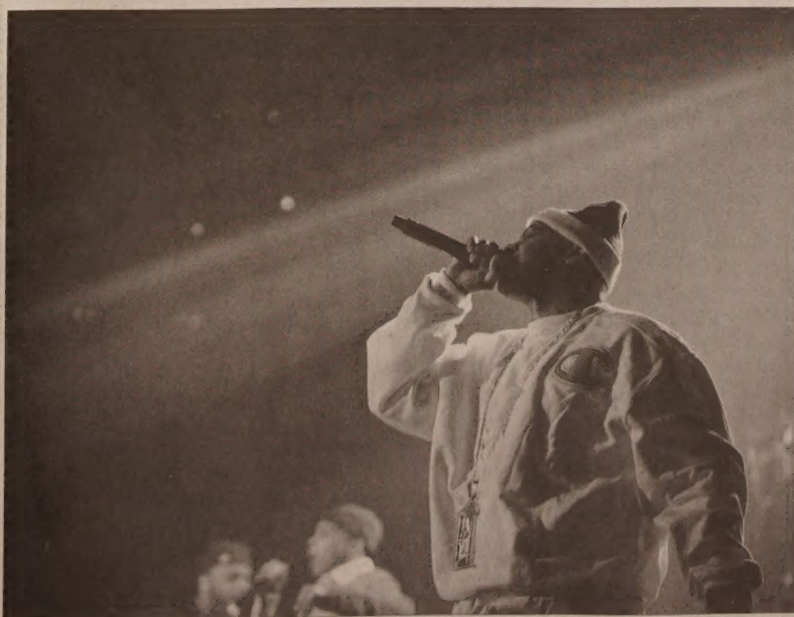
STS9

Electro-jam band STS9 is known above all for their incredible live sets. The band is a staple on the festival circuit, combining jazz, funk and psychedelic influences to form a distinct style that has garnered them much praise. Sound Tribe Sector 9 ("Tribe") has performed at nearly every major mu-

sic festival; their fans laud the relaxed and chill vibes that are made possible by their stylistic range of music. The band recently recruited bassist Alana Rocklin, who performed with the group for the first time in March 2014. Since Rocklin's addition, the band has experienced a resurgence in popularity. The crowd at Buku couldn't get enough of the group, they goaded them back out to perform two encores.

Ghostface Killah and BADBADNOTGOOD

When rap legend Ghostface Killah of Wu-Tang teamed up with electro-jazz group BADBADNOTGOOD last year, fans were unsure of what to expect. The result exceeded what anyone could have hoped for. With Ghostface's edgy and distinct flow syncing perfectly over BADBADNOTGOOD's electronic jazz, the two talented entities are a great match, especially live. The pair performed a few songs off their new collaboration, but Ghostface stuck mainly to classic Wu-Tang hits such as "C.R.E.A.M." He even performed some classic songs by the late icon Ol' Dirty Bastard such as "Shimmy Shimmy Ya." For his finale, Ghostface invited a fan to the perform the eternal "Protect Ya Neck," the opportunity of a lifetime for the fan and a testament to the performer's showmanship.



COURTESY OF THE COME UP SHOW VIA FLICKR

Ghostface Killah of Wu-Tang performed with BADNOTGOOD, melding hip-hop and electronic jazz.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorials

Speak up during the Title IX investigation

Time and again, students complain of their inability to influence the administration, that when it comes to issues like sexual assault and Greek life, no one listens to what we're saying. Sometimes that may be true, and administrators can often have agendas that do not fully match our own. But when the student life administrators give us an opportunity to make our voices heard, we should seize on it. The recent panels on sexual violence and the reports of the alcohol strategy group demonstrated that students are not showing up. Attendance was lackluster.

Luckily for those who didn't make those panels, you have another chance coming up soon. Next week, from Tuesday, March 31 to Thursday, April 2, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will visit campus as part of their investigation into Title IX violations at Hopkins. They will be holding focus groups throughout the days to talk with students, faculty, staff and specific sub-groups such as female athletes, student organization leaders or members of Greek life. The purpose of the focus groups is so we can express our thoughts on sexual violence and sexual harassment at Hopkins and so that the representatives from the OCR can answer our questions as well. The representatives are open for individual meetings and walk-ins for those who do not want to speak in a public forum.

The OCR will be camped out in Levering Hall for three days, and the Editorial Board strongly encourages anyone who has an opinion to meet with them. If you have thoughts on the culture of sexual violence here, or a specific instance you want to make them aware of, or a view on the way the administration has been handling these incidents, go and speak up. Here is an opportunity to make sure that your perspective and experiences as a student will be valued and will be appreciated.

Though it may seem like every college around is under investigation, this is by no means a trivial event. The Department of Education is investigating Hopkins, and

to do that, they need to learn about what happens here — they need to learn it from the students.

We realize that everyone here is stressed. It is difficult to find time to attend these kinds of things or to put in the effort to disrupt your regular schedule. But it's worth it. If any issue is worth your time, it's sexual assault. We are all unsatisfied with the current situation, and we know that long-term solutions are absolutely needed. If you want to help make that happen, then take it upon yourself and make your voice heard.

The schedule of focus group sessions is below:

Tuesday, March 31

1 p.m.: General session (undergraduate students) – The Sherwood Room

2 p.m.: General session (graduate students) – The Sherwood Room

3 p.m.: Resident assistants – The Sherwood Room

4 p.m.: Student organization leaders – The Sherwood Room

5 p.m.: Student organizations focused on women's rights and/or sexual violence – The Sherwood Room

3 to 5 p.m.: Individual meetings with OCR are available. Please call an OCR representative at the number below to schedule a private meeting. Walk-ins are also welcome. – Conference Room A

Wednesday, April 1

10 a.m. to noon: Individual meetings with OCR are available. Please call an OCR representative at one of the numbers below to schedule a private meeting. Walk-ins are also welcome. – Conference Room B

10 a.m.: Female student-athletes (intercollegiate and clubs) – The Sherwood Room

11 a.m.: University staff – The Sherwood Room

1 p.m.: University faculty – The Sherwood Room

2 p.m.: Members of fraternities – The Sherwood Room

3 p.m.: General session (undergraduate students) – The Sherwood Room

4 p.m.: Members of sororities – The Sherwood Room

3 to 5 p.m.: Individual meetings with OCR are available. Please call an OCR representative at the number below to schedule a private meeting. Walk-ins are also welcome. – Conference Room A

Thursday, April 2

10 a.m.: Male student athletes (intercollegiate and clubs) – The Great Hall

11 a.m.: General session (graduate students) – The Great Hall

Adderall should not be for recreational use

An article in this week's paper reports on Adderall usage at Hopkins. Students commonly use the ADHD drug for purposes other than its prescribed use, namely to enhance their academic performance and for partying. In order to improve their grades, many students buy Adderall and similar drugs illegally. Though we recognize that students praise Adderall's ability to help them focus, the Editorial Board highly discourages the use of Adderall by students who have not been diagnosed with ADHD and prescribed the drug by a licensed physician.

Taking Adderall to crank out a paper or cram for an exam can yield short term benefits, but these are outweighed by some serious risks. Adderall is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance (in the company of drugs such as cocaine and methadone) because it is highly

addictive, and abuse of the drug could lead to severe psychological or physical dependence. Moreover, Adderall can trigger pronounced physical reactions, including appetite loss and increased heart rate.

With a drug as powerful as Adderall, it is absolutely imperative for the health of the user to undergo careful monitoring and dosage adjustments by a bona fide physician. An irregular heartbeat, for example, could prove fatal when combined with the potent drug. The careful care of a doctor, therefore, is necessary to ensure that patients are healthy enough to take Adderall, that dosages are prescribed correctly and that users are safe to imbibe the drug.

The Editorial Board, thus, most strongly urges students against taking unprescribed drugs such as Adderall to avoid potentially life-threatening risks to their healths.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. The Johns Hopkins News-Letter reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in The News-Letter, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhnewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of The News-Letter at chiefs@jhnewsletter.com.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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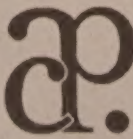
THE JOHNS
HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER

The Gatehouse
(on the corner of N. Charles
Street and Art Museum Drive)

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OPINIONS

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For the coffee-obsessed, Argentina is a curiosity

Motorcycles are a good calculated risk

By **AISHWARYA RAJE**

As someone who has never stayed in a foreign country for more than four consecutive weeks, I made the decision to study abroad for a semester with the hopes of becoming immersed in a completely new culture. Argentina seemed like the perfect place for me, as I'd have the opportunity to hone my Spanish-speaking skills while also taking advantage of big city life in Buenos Aires.

Though I haven't been here for too long, I can already tell that the semester will exceed all of my previous expectations. However, amidst the honeymoon phase where everything feels new and exciting, I'll admit that some aspects of Argentine culture took some getting used to. Having to hail down buses, kissing someone's cheek with every greeting and wearing my backpack on my chest to protect my belongings all felt a little strange at first. But once I got used to all that, everything else seemed to fall into place fairly quickly. I started feeling more at home, and in a global city like Buenos Aires, there is not much you won't be able to find, except for one thing. The one tiny thing that the city is missing happens to be the one thing I need to get through the day: coffee, on the go.

I have yet to see a single person walking down the street holding a cup of coffee, and it is alarming. While this may sound dramatic, you have to understand that coffee cups are practically an extension of my arm at this point. I've become so accustomed to getting coffee in Brody before my 9 a.m. class and then getting coffee at Gilman after lunch and then making coffee in my Keurig to take with me to my descent into C Level. Cafés in Argentina simply do not have the option of taking coffee "para llevar" or "to go," which is distressing.

It's not just me, and it's not just Hopkins students who are so used to running around and getting caffeinated at the same time. Americans are used to rushing, to following a schedule. The only reason I've noticed

this is because I am now studying in a country with an incredibly relaxed atmosphere, which is something I'm experiencing for the first time.

For an Argentine, getting coffee means taking a break. It means you are forced to sit down, drink your coffee, relax and then carry on with your day. Never is it something that is on the go or that overlaps with other errands of the day. Cafés don't have lines to order; you simply sit down and wait for the waiter to come to you, eliminating the possibility of rushing out the door as soon as you get your hands on a latte. It is a nice feeling to order an espresso at a café and continue to sit for the next four hours reading a book. There's no pressure to vacate your seat as soon as you've paid the bill, and waiters never come to "check-in" on you. Here, your time is your own.

It now doesn't surprise me that other countries tend to perceive Americans as uptight and overworked. Not that it's a fault in our culture or that we should work to completely change it, just that the stark contrast of going from such an academically demanding university to a country where people take three-hour coffee breaks is a welcome change.

Still, it seems highly unlikely that we will completely abandon the American work ethic over the course of the semester. An American friend of mine went to a nearby café this past weekend to do some homework, and the waiter approached her to ask if she's from the U.S. When she asked him how he knew, he responded, "Only an American would work on Sunday." Oh well, I guess we'll never totally fit in.

One of the only major coffee places in Buenos Aires that serves coffee to-go is Starbucks, but I'll probably go there only in my darkest hour of desperation. Until then, I look forward to embracing the Portefía life by moving a little slower, exploring a little more and sitting down and enjoying my coffee because hey, it's not like I have anywhere to be.

Aishwarya Raje is a junior International Studies major from Princeton, N.J.

By **WILL MARCUS**

When I was a baby, my mother used to take me down the driveway to the side of Pacific Coast Highway almost every night. Watching the occasional car blur by with that unmistakable whoosh of air consistently put me to sleep with a smile on my face. While I don't usually fall asleep on the sides of highways anymore, machines of all shapes and sizes still captivate me. Whether it's whipping around the yard with the weed whacker, sitting in the passenger seat on the way to school or even brushing my teeth with an electric toothbrush, my childhood was replete with indirect appreciation of human ingenuity. This is why it was a terrible idea for my parents to give me that little \$300 100 cc dirt bike on my 13th birthday. I was hooked the first time I swung my leg over the saddle.

I waited seven and a half years from that moment to own a real street motorcycle, and I was not disappointed. I did my research, saved up for months and ended up with a beautiful naked sport bike called a Suzuki SV 650. Please don't think that I didn't love my little dirt bike — I kept it for years — but the comparison between the two would be apples to oranges. I'm not exactly sure why that dirt bike failed to captivate me so, but carefully positioning my 180-pound frame atop a motorcycle I almost outweighed made me feel like bear riding a tricycle. It's hard to explain how it feels atop the SV, but I'll try to explain it anyway.

As cheesy as I know I'm about to sound, here goes nothing: I slowly stop feeling like a human being as I ride. After ten miles or so, I feel as if my body is nothing more than the fleshy connection between the throttle, clutch, shifter and brakes. When I want to accelerate, I don't think about twisting back with my right hand, simultaneously releasing the clutch lever with my left, pulling it in again, tapping the shifter up with my left foot and releasing the clutch again. I just go. It feels natural; it feels fluid; it feels awesome. It feels like the motorcycle has become an extension of my body — which

just so happens to be a spectacularly cool machine that excites my inner child to no end. Riding honestly feels like a superpower to me. When I'm not surrounded by cars that are trying to kill me, it feels like I'm perpetually floating atop a standing tidal wave in that liminal place where I'm one twitch of the wrist from being on top of the world and being dashed to pieces against a rocky beach. It's a supremely terrifying, yet peaceful place to be once you've been there awhile.

Ironically, I once sat next to a former fighter pilot on a plane. I swear that he actually introduced himself as "Chunk" Phillips, and Chunk loved motorcycles even more than I do. After he spent ten minutes comparing riding to flying and sounding as stupid as I just did in the preceding paragraph, he told me that he'd been riding almost every day since he was 17 and had only crashed once. He was 18 when the crash happened and 55 when I met him. This conversation comes to mind every time one of my friends or loved ones berates me for owning a motorcycle despite the fact that I met Chunk years before I got my bike. He was and still is living proof to me that the risks of riding can be mitigated.

Amidst media sensationalization that cites skewed statistics, I believe that the real danger of riding is overblown in the first place. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety releases their statistics for motorcycle fatalities every year, and if one parses through the data, one can see some interesting trends. On average over the past 10 years, 59 percent of people killed on motorcycles were not wearing a helmet. Wearing a helmet is both the simplest and most effective thing one can do to minimize risk while riding. The fact that anyone would ride without one is astonishing to me. Moreover, in 2012, 34 percent of motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were

speeding, compared with 24 percent of passenger car fatalities. Finally, 24 percent of people involved in fatal crashes over the past ten years did not have a valid motorcycle license, compared with 13 percent of passenger car fatalities. I don't know about you, but these statistics indicate to me that the average rider is a little bit more of a risk-taker than the average driver. There are many more statistics out there to show that the average rider simply does not take the steps necessary to minimize the dangers of riding both before and after getting on their bikes.

Even though I do everything in my power to minimize my risk, I fully accept that riding is the most dangerous thing that I do in my daily life by a titanic margin. I also

accept that I could die by no fault of my own. What I do not accept is complacency. The more proactive about safety I am, the more I minimize the chances of suffering

tragedy. I never swing a leg over the saddle without a full face helmet, spine protector, armored cowhide jacket, armored cowhide gloves, armored overpants and armored racing boots. I am meticulous about my bike maintenance, and I've taken the highest-level safety courses and regularly practice emergency stops and swerves at speed in empty parking lots — and willingly look like a massive idiot while I do it.

When I actually travel through traffic, I ride like I am invisible and pretend that every car is trying to kill me — all with the aim of never having to actually use the skills I practice. I keep my eyes on my mirrors at every red light to check for speeding cars on their way to kill me. When one oncoming car takes a safe left turn in front of me, I am always expecting the cars behind him waiting to take the same turn to follow the first car without looking and kill me. There isn't an intersection I pass without looking left and right first for red light-running assailants on their way to kill me. I treat every ride through traffic like a life-or-death situation. It is a strange and terrible feeling to be both invisible and hunted simultaneously, and consequently, I am absolutely terrified every time I get on the road with other cars. So why even bother doing it? For the times when I'm not.

I only ride through traffic to get away from it. You try taking a sunrise ride through the crisp 60-degree air in the Sonora desert at 6 a.m. and tell me it doesn't feel like raw, unadulterated bliss. Try riding the empty, undulating curves of the country roads outside of Galveston at twilight and seeing the setting sun scintillating over the tranquil tides of the Gulf of Mexico in the corner of your eye as you flow through the turns. It is pure serenity. These are the moments worth all the risk that I took to get there. This is why I will never commute on a motorcycle. I will never ride to the pharmacy or post office. I will never even ride to a friend's house. I ride to find those roads where it is safe to be alone with my thoughts. I ride to get lost, because ultimately I believe that is the easiest way to find yourself.

Will Marcus is a junior International Studies and economics major from Austin, Texas. He is the Opinions Editor.

Administration's Greek life actions discard student trust

By **JAMES CAMERON**

I'm not the first person to use these pages to talk about Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE), and I'm just as confident I won't be the last either. But I wanted to put my thoughts down on paper so there can be some kind of record to reflect how screwed up the University has become in the three years I have been a student here. Rather than establish a coherent policy that actually reflects how the Hopkins Greek/social scene actually works, the University has consistently followed an approach that puts short-term damage control above long-term stable policy. In order to change, the University needs to recognize the frustration of students and establish a body that will aggressively seek to reform policy, not pander to parents and donors.

Now I don't want to turn back the clock to what happened to Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE), but we can at least start with how the actions of that fraternity and the media attention it received set the ground for the punishment SAE received. Following the events of last spring/fall, it was unsurprising that PIKE closed

its doors; there was simply too much pressure put on the University by the media and parents to allow PIKE to remain open. But what came next, the draconian punishment SAE received, was nothing more than the University seeking to make an example of a fraternity, to show the city of Baltimore, donors and parents, that Hopkins had changed.

You will notice the previous sentence made no mention of students, which might be surprising if you didn't actually go to Hopkins. However, if you do go to Hopkins, then you know exactly what I am talking about. Following the events of last year and this fall, the University pledged to make serious changes. They initiated councils and committees, notably with the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC), whose advice they promptly rejected. And the result of all this bureaucracy? A raft of new recommendations from a joint student/faculty committee!

After months of work they have managed to produce suggestions: bystander training, new policies on registering parties or, my personal favorite, "beginning the process of establishing an amnesty policy for those who call emergency

services [HERO]." This committee has managed to suggest plenty of things, but none of them are coherently being put into action. This is one year after a stabbing inside a fraternity, months after a rape inside a fraternity. It begs the question of what exactly does it take to get the University to act?

All we have seen are short-term measures, which the University can clearly point to when parents ask, "Is my child safe at Hopkins?" And that bothers me, because if the University can't be relied upon to take these issues seriously, where exactly is my tuition going? Does it go to the hiring of administrators who convene committees and working groups or to people who actually care about this University and wish to see it emerge from these trials a stronger and safer place? Right now the former is the answer, and that is why you see and hear the anger of students.

Let's face it — Hopkins students are pretty tough to excite about this kind of stuff. After all, we are all too busy juggling 18-credit semesters to do a whole lot else. But we aren't stupid. We can tell the difference between people who are

serious and passionate about what they do and those who would rather pass the buck. Right now, we all feel as if we have been passed around, as if the University would rather sweep its issues under the rug than have the guts to really face the issue.

I don't want to be the one who spits criticism without suggesting a solution. However, I honestly don't know what the answers are. I won't say this is an easy problem with a simple solution. But the least the University could do is act as if the safety of its student is an urgent consideration. Let's see something more substantial than committees. Let's see the emergence of an organization that pairs faculty and students together with some actual power, not just a group that makes suggestions. Let's see an IFC that is given an opportunity to organize and self-enforce, not one that is brushed aside. If the University wants change, it needs to embrace its students, not isolate them. To do that, we need to see that the University sees students as more than a dollar sign, and that might be the toughest change to make of all.

James Cameron is a junior biology major from Boston.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



In Baltimore, 44 pedestrians were killed by cars in 2008. Behind the wheel or on your feet, be careful out there.

Don't be a statistic.

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THE B SECTION

News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

MARCH 26, 2015

A photograph of Kendrick Lamar holding a microphone, looking directly at the camera.

Arts & Entertainment

Kendrick Lamar releases new album — B3

Sci-fi film *Chappie* does not live up to expectations — B4

Israeli film released in local theaters impresses — B5

A graphic illustration of a human torso with a glowing red neural network or DNA helix structure overlaid on the chest and spine area.

Science & Technology

Total solar eclipse seen by Europeans on March 20 — B7

Study finds genetic link to peanut allergy — B7

Angelina Jolie removes her ovaries to prevent cancer — B8

A photograph of a women's lacrosse game in progress. A player in a dark jersey is in the foreground, and other players are visible in the background near the goal.

Sports

Women's Lacrosse defeats rival Georgetown — B11

Men's, Women's Swim place at NCAA championship — B12

Baseball ends spring break tournament 8-3 — B12

YOUR WEEKEND MARCH 26-29

An unconventional artspace close to campus Korean restaurant Noc Won is recommended

By MIA CAPOBIANCO
Your Weekend Editor

Since I happened upon Gallery 788 a few months ago, it has quickly become one of my favorite hangouts in Baltimore. The gallery is located at 3602 Hickory Ave., right in the thick of Hampden's rich culture. The small brick building doesn't look like much from the outside, but once you enter the gallery, you are enveloped in artwork. A myriad of art objects line every hallway. The walls of the main room are tastefully slathered in paintings, photographs and three-dimensional works. The ceiling tiles have been painted to give the illusion of a grand American flag. Large leather couches sit in the center of the gallery for your lounging needs. It's all very charming and

Hampden-esque. The gallery is spacious, but on event nights, the place gets comfortably crowded. G788 hosts events several times a month — drag show competitions, theatrical performances, eccentric fundraisers, intimate shows by musical artists — and they are certainly a spectacle. Past events to note include the all-female art show cleverly named *ARTRIARCHY*, which ran from April 2 – March 1. According to the gallery's official Facebook page, the show was “an exploration of femininity in the modern millennium, with an emphasis on contemporary art and abstraction.” It featured various artistic media, including video and poetry, among more traditional methods. *Venus Envy*, on April 2 at 7 p.m. will be an an

artshow comprised of all-female local artists. There will be musical performances as well as live painting. If prefer a more zen vibe, you can immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the gallery and practice your poses with the “Your Body is Art” program, a yoga class offered on Saturday mornings at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Gallery 788 is also hosting performances of *The Dum Dums* through Baltimore theater group Glass Mind Theater. It is a show about three female astronauts exploring super-Earth when they run into a programming error. The (likely hilarious and bizarre) performances will take place until April 4. The gallery has a very active Facebook presence, and you can easily keep track of G788's goings-on if you check out their page.

Of course, it is nice to go to big events with a few of your most eccentric friends or stop in during the day after grabbing a bite to eat in Hampden. However, my recommendation for getting acquainted with Gallery 788 is to attend an exhibition opening. G788 attracts a vibrant and diverse crowd, and these nights are perfect for socializing with Baltimore's lovers of art and culture. Everyone is extremely friendly and eager to tell you about other cultural hubs to explore in the city. The boxed wine is flowing (for those of you who are of age), the conversation is enriching and the people are lively. Gallery 788 is fun, pretentious and welcoming. The owners and directors know what makes a gallery successful: personality. And G788 has considerable personality.



WIKIMEDIA.ORG
Barley tea is a caffeine-free infusion served year-round in Korea.

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Columnist

It was Sunday, and I had just gotten back from spring break. I had work to do for Monday and bags to unpack, but I couldn't bring myself to do anything but lay around on my computer — not atypical behavior for me. I was just settling in for an evening of doing absolutely nothing with some light self-loathing and a dose of isolation when I got a message from my friend Jisoo asking me to go to dinner with her and her boyfriend.

“Thank God!” I thought. I was now absolved from having to do anything constructive whatsoever today. Perfect. I asked where, and she said we'd be going to a Korean restaurant not far away. We caught the Blue Jay Shuttle and, after a 10 or 15 minute ride, we arrived at the restaurant.

Noc Won is near the former Club K in Station North. The Crown and the Windup Space are nearby landmarks. It seems dingy on the outside, and, looking at it, you expect it to be small. However, when we walked in, we realized it is quite large and not badly kept. The place is almost — but not quite — dimly lit, with posters of Korean food and boy bands scattered over the walls. We were led to the back of the restaurant. A TV played a video of a cat in one corner of the room.

We were served glasses of a yellowish liquid. I

wondered if it was supposed to be water. My friends were drinking it, so, assuming that even if it was water it must be safe, I took a sip. It was not water. Drinking it was rather like drinking bread or rice. When asked what it was, Jisoo said it was barley tea. If you like chamomile tea, you will probably like it. It was really very pleasant.

Jisoo ordered for all of us in Korean. First we all got rice with toppings and vegetables to share. I'm not a kimchi fan, but if you are, that stuff would have been great. Then we all got bowls of some kind of ribs cooked in a sauce that was just spicy enough, along with peppers and onions. Delicious.

It was a little expensive — maybe about the same as One World. It was around \$12 for the meal, but there were likely cheaper items on the menu as well. For vegetarians, I would check online or call to be sure they have meatless options, but they likely do. A huge plus were some of those lollipops, the kind your kindergarten teacher used to give you, by the door (dum dum pops, I'm pretty sure they're called).

Altogether, I'd recommend heading to Noc Won if you want to get a little further away from Charles Village without going too far. I can't speak for the authenticity of their cuisine myself, but the fact that Jisoo is from Korea and likes the place a lot seems indicative that Noc Won is decent in that regard.



G788.COM
The main hall in Gallery 788 is spacious but cozy, making it the perfect venue for performances, workshops and fundraisers alike.

Events in Baltimore this weekend



WIKIMEDIA.ORG

8th Annual PEEP Show
Carroll Arts Center
March 27 – April 6

From 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily, you can explore fantastical works of art made entirely from marshmallows... free of charge! Peeps-themed shirts, souvenirs and refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the show.

Zombie Gras
Geppi's Entertainment Museum
March 28, 10 a.m.

Beginning at 10 a.m., make-up artists, vendors, characters and attendees will take over Geppi's Entertainment Museum. There will be costume contests, followed by the Zombie Gras Bar Crawl and Scavenger Hunt at 1 p.m. Special wristbands for the crawl will be handed out from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the cost of \$10. Those in costume get to crawl for free. There will be bar specials for those participating all day and night.



CULTUREFLY.ORG

The News-Letter is excited to announce the election of our new Your Weekend Editor, Mia Capobianco!

.....➤ The weekend's calendar of events

Friday, March 27

Bill Cosby
The Lyric, 8 p.m.

Slutwalk Protest of Cosby Show
The Lyric, 6:30 p.m.

Alloverstreet: East Oliver Street Art Walk
East Oliver Street, 7 p.m.

\$CRAPER World Entertainment Presents: Future Fest
The Windup Space, 9 p.m.

Saturday, March 28

Eugene O'Neill: A Life in Four Acts Book Talk/Signing
Vagabond Players, 12 p.m.

The Original Fells Point Haunted Pub Walk
Max's Sidebar, 7 p.m.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Students launch new online literary magazine

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Staff Writer

Vector Magazine, an online literary magazine dedicated to highlighting experimental, creative writing was published for the first time by Hopkins students on March 9. Although currently a functioning online entity, *Vector Magazine* began simply as the dream of a few Hopkins students in their freshman year.

"We would sit around and talk about starting our own magazine, something that had everything for everyone," sophomore Jesse Shuman wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. Shuman is one of the editors-in-chief of the magazine. "We wanted it to be a writer's magazine — to force people to ven-

ture into mediums and experiences they hadn't before."

In fall of 2014, Shuman approached his friend Ruth Marie Landry to bring the magazine to fruition online. The two took on the roles of joint editors-in-chief and formed a staff of fellow writers and friends including Maxwell Gontarek, who also recalls the origins of the publication.

"The plan, as far as I was concerned, was to have these radical handmade zines to hand out to friends, each one a little different, layered collage kind of stuff with poems, manifestos, cartoons, etc.," Gontarek wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Eventually, Ruth and Jesse took the reigns sometime

SEE *VECTOR*, PAGE B5

Kendrick Lamar drops ground-breaking album

By **THOMAS BRAZELTON**
For *The News-Letter*

Kendrick Lamar released his newest album on March 16 at midnight, a week earlier than anticipated. *To Pimp a Butterfly*, his third studio album, marks a new peak in Lamar's musical career as it not only is a new musical direction for him, but also has a larger scope in its message than any of his previous works.

Lamar's debut album *Section.80*, released in 2011, demonstrated his ability to write hip hop that was simultaneously innovative, true to the roots of the genre and socially conscious. This ability was further displayed on his 2013 album *good kid, m.A.A.d city*, which chronicled his childhood, his experiences with violence, love



COURTESY OF NRK P3 VIA FLICKR

Kendrick Lamar incorporates hip hop, jazz, funk and poetry into his new album *To Pimp a Butterfly*.

and societal pressures, and how he has become the person he is today.

Influenced by artists like Miles Davis, Tupac Shakur and Parliament, this album is jazz, funk, soul and modern hip-hop

fused into a distinctive, powerful sound. Although the album is less accessible than any of Lamar's previous work, the composition and musical complexity is outstanding.

With modern jazz musicians like Thundercat and Lalah Hathaway as well as producers such as Terrace Martin and Flying Lotus, *To Pimp a Butterfly* is a precisely composed collection of musical styles that come together to form a beautiful whole.

At the end of certain songs throughout the album, Lamar recites a poem he has written, repeating what he has previously stated and then adding more and more as the album progresses. This fits in perfectly throughout the album as each break in the poem conceptually leads into the following song.

The first half of the album contains some incredible tracks such as the relentlessly funky "King Kunta," the dark, methodical jazz tone of "u," and the first interlude "For Free?," a reference to "Tramp" by Otis Redding that features some of Kendrick's fastest and most intelligent lyricism. However, the album reaches an ideological peak on the back half of the album.

"The Blacker the Berry," the second single from *To Pimp a Butterfly*, is a powerful track conveying the world as a

grimy, bloody wasteland and brutally revealing the reality of systematic racial oppression. In an explosion of emotion and anger, "The Blacker the Berry" culminates in the idea that gang violence plays into the hands of racial abuse.

The song also asserts that in order to rise against institutionalized racism, gang warfare must be quelled and the black population must unite under the banner of equality, as during the civil rights movements in 1960s America and in South Africa under Nelson Mandela. (Both movements are consistently referenced throughout the album.) The full development of this idea, as well as the completion of Lamar's poem, occur in the grand finale of this album on the final two tracks.

The penultimate track "i" was released as the first single of *To Pimp a Butterfly* and won two Grammys for Lamar's rap performance. However, the album version of "i" is much less clean and catchy than the single version. Lamar presents what is made to sound like a live performance of the track with a modified hook and an omitted musical outro.

Raw energy emerges on the album version of this song, fitting into the overall album seamlessly. The track is about self-love

SEE *KENDRICK*, PAGE B4

OK Go band member talks upcoming concert

By **AMANDA AUBLE**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

After releasing their latest album *Hungry Ghosts* in October, pop-rock group OK Go will bring their ongoing tour to Baltimore's Rams Head Live! on Sunday, April 12.

Band members Damian Kulash, Tim Nordwind and Dan Konopka formed OK Go in Chicago in 1998, and Andy Ross joined the lineup in 2005. The band has currently released four studio albums, but they are particularly recognized for their elaborate and quirky music videos that have circulated all over the Internet. Nordwind, the band's bassist and vocalist, recently spoke to *The News-Letter* to discuss OK Go and their latest live performances since they will soon be stopping in Baltimore.

"We hardly ever come to Baltimore so I'm excited," Nordwind said. "I think in the 16 years we've been a band we've played there once or twice, so I'm happy to be coming back there."

Although fans are used to seeing OK Go perform concise choreography or elaborate optical illusions in their music videos, the band does not aim to recreate their videos live. So, unfortunately, fans cannot expect to see any enormous Rube Goldberg machines or even treadmills onstage. Nevertheless, OK Go's live performance aims

to harness the audience's energy with an interactive focus.

"We look at the live shows as a wholly unique and individual experience," Nordwind said. "But I think a lot of what goes into creating the record and the videos, the spirit of that is different than the live show. We have a whole brand new live show now and it's very interactive and multimedia. There's a lot appealing to the senses in our live show. It's not so much about needing to get the videos we make into the show, but getting the spirit and the fun of making those things still exists in the live show."

Along with supplying entertaining stage effects and light shows, OK Go plans to break some of the established rules of concert performance and make personalized connections with the audience.

"We have upped our game on the light show spectrum. There's a ton of confetti," Nordwind said. "But we also do things where we make songs with the audience and we play songs in the audience. We literally stop and do question-and-answer sessions with the audience and literally just talk to people. Sometimes we bring them up on stage. There are little short films that we show. There's a surprise around most every corner."

Concert-goers can also expect to hear new

songs from *Hungry Ghost* that move away from the band's previous focus on rock instrumentals. In their latest album, OK Go fuses their signature rock sound with noticeably more techno beats and electronic rhythms.

"This record definitely is the most electronic that we've made," Nordwind said. "In my mind it's still very much a rock and roll record, but this time around I think, production wise, we went a little more on the electronic front."

"It's fun to be able to work within sort of an electronic palette though, and it really opens up the amount of sounds we can play with, and I love the sonic world of EDM. I think EDM and hip hop are at the cutting edge of music technology so its fun to be able to mix that in with what we do as well."

Nordwind explained that much of the band's evolving electronic sound comes from the technology they utilize while working on and revising their music.

"Some of [the electronic sound] was due in part to the fact that a lot of the writing that we've been doing has been from the road or whenever we have the day off from the set of a video or something like that. Usually what we have are our computers and our music software," he said. "We've had to do a lot of demos just through programming,

which inherently just make things a bit more electronic. I think when we were programing our demos we were feeling like 'Well, I'm going to put in the sound where the real guitar is going to be, and when we get to the studio and we'll put the guitar in.' But once we got to the studio and everything, the sounds we put in, for instance where the guitar was supposed to go, seemed more interesting than just traditional guitar. We just kind of ran with that so the record started feeling electronic because of it."

When asked which aspect of the musical process he preferred, studio sessions or live performances, Nordwind explained his outlook on the creativity involved in each.

"I think it depends on what point in the process you ask me that question. I love both. I think maybe I prefer the studio a little bit more just because every day is about being creative in the studio. Playing live that's kind of the case, but after like the fifth week of traveling it gets a little tiring. And sometimes it can feel like at one point you were very creative, but once the show's up and running its not a surprise to me anymore and it feels like we're not being as creative as we could be. I do love playing live and our new show very much keeps us on our toes. I think I will not get tired of it any time soon."

OK Go has also released their newest videos to songs on the *Hungry Ghosts* album, including "I Won't Let You Down" and "The Writings on the Wall." Both provide elaborate performances, which remind and build upon their original choreography in "Here It Goes Again," which features band members jumping between and dancing on treadmills.

"We get to work with some really amazing collaborators. Throughout the years we've just been able to find really excellent people, who see the world in very interesting

SEE *OK GO*, PAGE B4

Kingsman film mixes action with comedy

By **ANEeka RATNAYAKE**
For *The News-Letter*

Veering away from his classic roles in romantic comedies, Colin Firth gives a humorously theatrical performance in the film *Kingsman: The Secret Service*. Directed by Matthew Vaughn, who is known for other dramatizations of classic action movies such as *Kick-Ass*, this film takes diverse elements from traditional action movies and comically draws out the far-fetched elements these films typically contain.

From *King Arthur* and the *Knights of the Round Table* to the typical plotline of any of Ian Fleming's *James Bond* adventures, this film has elements that appeal to diverse audiences.

The plot follows a young man named Egg-

sy who lost his father at a very young age and as a result, now lives with his mother and abusive stepfather. Eggsy immediately draws sympathy from the audience for his circumstances, yet his band of cronies and his subsequent reckless actions, designed to spite his stepfather, push viewers to the edge of their seats, rooting for the moral outlaw.

After one of Eggsy's larger acts of rebellion in which he steals one of his stepfather's thugs' cars, he lands himself in jail, forced to call for help. Eggsy chooses to dial the number on the back of a medal of honor that his father received posthumously for bravery. When this medal was given to Eggsy and his mother, the man doing so promised that

SEE *KINGSMAN*, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF BBGUNPRESS.COM

Rock group OK Go will bring their latest interactive performance to Rams Head Live! on Sunday, April 12.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chappie fails to depict authentic emotion



COURTESY OF BENEDICT CUMBERATCH VIA FANPOP
Chappie's main characters are unfortunately stereotypical and tiring to watch.

here is Hugh Jackman who plays another inventor named Vincent Moore. While Jackman himself is a great actor capable of giving excellent performances, Vincent's character is so bland and overused that it's almost painful to watch Jackman stagger through his lines.

This character is every jealous, over-ambitious, evil-for-the-sake-of-evil archetype that has ever existed with none of the unique quirks that could make him actually interesting. To be fair, Ninja's secondary antagonist character is absolutely no better, being nothing more than a generic, extorting bully. Between the pair of them, a story intended to question the nature of human consciousness devolves into a montage of criminals kicking around an infant. In effect, it's not just uninteresting, but horribly mean-spirited.

As these characters and villains engineer their bland and generic conflicts with one another, Chappie himself

sits in the middle of it all. To give credit where it is due, Chappie himself is very well-rendered, and Sharlto Copley does a fine job breathing life into the machine.

Perhaps intentionally it is genuinely heartbreaking to see the robot get kicked around, taken advantage of and otherwise abused by both the characters and the inane story. Unfortunately, neither the side characters nor the setting are fleshed out enough to make Chappie's development interesting. With films like *WALL-E* on the market, which manage to elicit so much emotion through so little, it's astounding that *Chappie* is barely able to elicit anything beyond pity.

At its core, *Chappie* is a bland, mean-spirited film about an innocent child getting bullied for the sake of posing existential questions. Don't expect any answers to these questions, and outside of a few painfully engineered heartstring-tugging moments, don't expect to feel any notable connection with any of the characters.

While there are admittedly much more objectively bad films on the market, *Chappie* unfortunately makes the grievous mistake of promising so much and delivering so little. If you're looking to watch something even marginally well-fleshed-out this weekend, stick to the Saturday morning cartoons because you'll have better luck.

Overall Rating: 2/5

OK Go to bring concert experience to B'more

OK GO, FROM B3
ways. Whether they're dog trainers or scientists or a Japanese dance crew — whoever it is — we've just been really lucky to work with some very excellent people. I've enjoyed being able to see the world through their eyes and to be able to create something with them."

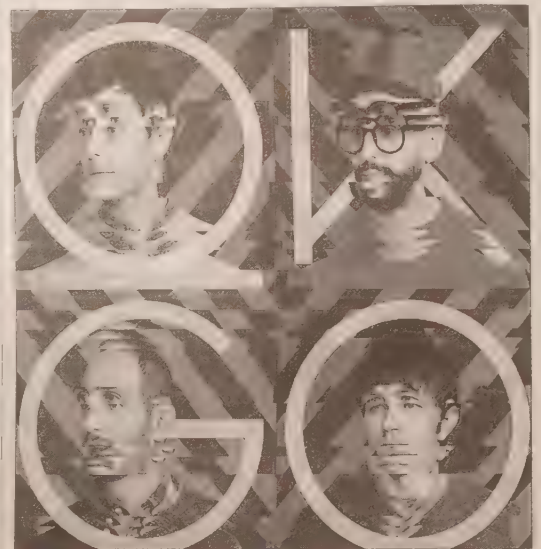
As their videos have racked up millions of views over time and evolved into more elaborate scenes, OK Go has experienced more control and influence in the video creation process.

"I'm glad that people have responded so well since we've started kind of taking control of our own videos because I think that's given us the confidence to go on and experiment with the re-

cords we make and experiment with the videos we make and experiment with the live production in our show. To follow the things that we think are cool and trust our instincts," Nordwind said.

Along with continuing their 2015 tour, OK Go plans to explore other entertainment mediums like television in the future. OK Go fans can expect much more to come from the band.

"Obviously we'll keep making records, but we're developing a couple ideas for television right now. We'll see if they'll happen," Nordwind said. "We're thinking of possibly creating a festival — that maybe won't be this year but hopefully for next year — and play around the country a little bit."



BBGUNPRESS.COM

OK Go's latest album shows a distinct shift toward electronic music.

Tim Freborg Flashframe Film Reviews

Sometimes a movie will come around that serves as a reminder that a cool-sounding concept is not enough to carry a film. Sometimes that very same movie will even be kind enough to build up great expectations and then proceed to shatter all of them like a mean kid stomping on a toddler's sand castle. For our purposes, let's call this film *Chappie*.

Chappie, directed by Neill Blomkamp (the mastermind behind such films as *District 9* and *Elysium*) epitomizes exactly why trailers and pre-release information ought to be viewed dubiously at best. Despite appearing to be a promising sell, *Chappie* ultimately fails to deliver anything above stunning mediocrity. Its story is lackluster, its atmosphere is dour and its characters range from wooden to ludicrous. Such failings are nothing new to Blomkamp's films — both *Elysium* and *District 9* suffered in similar manners — but one would have hoped that either he or audiences would have learned their lesson by now. Clearly neither is the case.

Chappie is a science fiction drama detailing the struggle of a budding artificial intelligence robot as it grows and begins to interact with the world. After successfully creating a fully automated robotic army to help combat crime, inventor Deon Wilson (Dev Patel) begins dabbling in creating a true, self-aware artificial intelligence. Unfortunately, as his boss has clearly seen the *Terminator* movies one too many times, Deon finds his progress in the project roadblocked on official channels and he is forced to bring the project underground.

Deon is unexpectedly kidnapped by a gang (played by Watkin Tudor Jones as Ninja, Yo-Landi Visser and Jose Pablo Cantillo) and is forced to turn over his new artificially intelligent robot to them. As the robot (named Chappie) awakens for the first time, it exhibits a truly innocent

and childlike personality. However, it then falls to his adoptive gang "family" to determine how Chappie should be used and what kind of person he will become.

On its surface, *Chappie* appears to be a perfectly fine film. While questions surrounding artificial intelligence and what precisely separates humans from ma-

chines are by no means new to science fiction, *Chappie* presents them in an interesting way: Neither the robots nor the humans are (initially) presented as a wholly malevolent force. It's neither a destructor story nor a pure loss-of-innocence story. Instead, it's a story about what it means to be a person, even when the rest of the world doesn't see you as such.

Or at least that's what it could have been. Instead of offering a story exploring any of these questions in a compelling way, *Chappie* opts to create a world of black-and-grey morality, one-note characters and a plot so confused that it's almost impossible to determine what exactly it's even trying to accomplish. While none of these aspects are inherently bad on their own, when lumped together in this fashion, it simply makes for a muddled mess.

The biggest issue the film faces is that it absolutely refuses to explore any of the big questions it puts forth. Should a true artificial intelligence be created or not? Beyond two characters shouting at each other, this question is barely addressed. Should Chappie be used as a gang robot or raised like a proper child? Beyond two characters shouting at each other, this question is barely addressed.

It certainly doesn't help that every character in the film is reduced to a single defining character trait: the eccentric inventor, the hardened gangster, the motherly figure — all stereotypes that audiences have seen before. Furthermore, not a single actor brings anything remotely new to the table with his or her performance.

The biggest offender

To Pimp a Butterfly addresses justice, oppression

KENDRICK, FROM B3
and compassion, yet the album version is cut off toward the end of the track as a fight breaks out in the crowd. Lamar attempts to regain control of the room, talking about how many of his friends have died and how we have to "appreciate the little bit of life we got left."

He then breaks out into an a capella verse, discussing how the n-word used as an oppressive slur was twisted from the root "Negus," meaning "black emperor, king, ruler." He states that it is a word whose true meaning was buried throughout history, colonization, slavery and patterned racism. He believes the word's power must be regained, ending the track by calling himself "Kendrick Lamar, by far, realest Negus alive."

In the final track of the album "Mortal Man," Lamar raps over a brooding

jazz beat, discussing reputation and legacy and repeating the line "when the shit hit the fan, is you still a fan?" This touches on the question of how loyal his listeners are and whether they can accept his message while recognizing that he is a flawed person who makes mistakes, hence the song title.

He states how he wishes to further the movement of Nelson Mandela and be a leader in the push for a world of equality and justice. As the music ends, Lamar returns to the poem he has been building throughout this album and recites it in its entirety. It touches on every theme and idea developed during *To Pimp a Butterfly* and beautifully depicts his ideology. The end of the poem reveals that the entire time, Lamar has been reciting the poem to Tupac Shakur.

Using an interview with Shakur from the

'90s, Lamar fits in his own questions and responses, creating what sounds like a seamless interview between the two musical icons. Tupac talks about his success and his personal views on life. He sees sparks of imminent class warfare and believes that the next racial riots will not result in looting but rather bloodshed and murder. Lamar responds by saying that the only true hope we have left is sharing ideology and uniting as one through the power of music.

The album ends as Lamar recites a final poem for Tupac, revealing the metaphor of the butterfly in the album title. In the background, a spiritual jazz beat begins.

A symbol of institutionalized racism, the caterpillar attempts to keep the butterfly restrained within a cocoon. Lamar states that as ideas take root within the butterfly,

"wings begin to emerge, breaking the cycle of feeling stagnant." The butterfly emerges, free, and sheds light on the reality of the situation, ending the struggle between the caterpillar and the butterfly.

As this is ending, the music rises. Lamar asks for Tupac's opinion, but there is only music, growing in volume. He calls out "Pac? Pac?" over the music, and as the beat rises into cacophony it suddenly cuts off. We hear Lamar call out one last time, "Pac?!" to deafening silence and the end of the album.

In his previous work, Lamar has asked his listeners not to view him as a rapper but rather as a writer. He believes that his genre is not hip-hop, but universal music, speaking to everyone. *To Pimp a Butterfly* is more than an album and more than a story: It is an ideology. It is the culmination of centuries of racial violence, anger, hurt, frustration and disillusion with society manifested in the work of one of the most talented musicians and storytellers to ever live.

On *To Pimp a Butterfly*, Lamar has crafted one of the most thoughtful, intelligent and provoking pieces of music of the past decade. This album will be remembered not only as a pillar of modern hip-hop, but of modern music and one of the great works of the 21st century. *To Pimp a Butterfly* solidifies Kendrick Lamar's legacy as a musician, as a writer and as a king.



COURTESY OF LUNCHBOX LP VIA FLICKR

Lamar's recent album is powerful, addressing historical black oppression both abroad and in the U.S.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Colin Firth takes on a markedly comedic role



COURTESY OF GALLERHIP.COM

The action in *Kingsmen* is both well-choreographed and eccentric.

KINGSMAN, FROM B3
dialing that number would resolve whatever problem at hand; hence, Eggsy tries his luck with it. Despite the well-choreographed action scenes that inspire suspense, the film balances its comedic moments. Rather than creating a full on spoof of Bond-like action films, the movie makes a point only to push the eccentricity of the action to a point of subtle humor. This is achieved greatly by the dynamic the cast is able to achieve.

Kingsman draws both on incredibly experienced actors like Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Caine and Mark Strong. Relative newcomers such as Taron Egerton, who plays Eggsy, and Sophie Cookson, who plays Roxy, also add to the *Kingsman* team. This helps emphasize the mentor-mentee relationship between the new recruits and those with more experience as this translates from real life to the lives of the characters.

Viewers truly sense the paternal bond formed between Galahad and Eggsy as the vast respect Eggsy feels for his mentor grows organically and never feels forced. In creating relationships that come from a very real place, the movie creates a balance between satirical comedy and a plot that can be followed without seeming too much like a sketch. This is further achieved through the diverse humor paired with looming threats that do have their place in our world.

The film makes a point to play on diverse character studies without singling out any specific stereotypes. From the

multimillionaire entrepreneur whose sudden wealth has left him with completely distasteful spending habits to the eccentric environmentalist professor who cannot seem to fully consolidate his drastic theories with real world applications, the film uses humor to reach a deeper level. By keeping the humor fairly subtle, the audience also sees these characters as real people we often see in society, as opposed to simply over-the-top stereotypes.

This is seen from the beginning when Eggsy is forced to deal with his stepfather and his band of thugs. Although they are portrayed as people who feel compelled to exert a powerful persona by walking around their small town and harassing locals, there is still the underlying tone of domestic violence felt by Eggsy's mother.

In doing so subtly, the audience picks up on diverse nuances that can often be hidden and considers them with just the right amount of emotional weight. This is one of the elements in which the film excels, further emphasizing it's appeal to diverse audiences.

For a film that will have you both laughing and cringing from the suspense, *Kingsman* does an excellent job at achieving what it set out to do: provide a humorous twist to action movies with a relevant plot given today's prevalent issues. This is definitely worth a watch and certainly will have you thinking of Colin Firth as far more than a tragic character of romantic comedies.

By CHACONNE MARTIN-BERKOWICZ
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Gett: *The Trial of Viviane Amsalem* (2014) is a French drama directed by Ronit Elkabetz and Shlomi Elkabetz that raises questions on gender roles, religion and power play. The film tells the story of middle-aged woman Viviane (Ronit Elkabetz) who is requesting a divorce from her husband, Elisha (Simon Abkarian) in an Israeli civil court.

In Israel, civil marriage but not civil divorce is recognized, and a divorce may only be granted to a woman if she can provide significant proof of abuse or if her husband agrees.

While the film runs nearly two hours, each moment feels warranted and focused. The film's length also contributes to the viewer's sense of how much time has passed since the trial began: a total of three years.

The film is discreet and does not give the viewers, or the three Orthodox male judges present to hear the case, much backstory or information as to why the couple would like a divorce. What is clear from their facial expressions, however, is that there is a deep rooted coldness between them.

The film is simplistic with its settings and is set entirely in a small courtroom, making the viewers feel like they are present and serving as judges, encouraging them to evaluate whether or not the arguments made are true and have validity. As the intensity of the drama increases, the room becomes claustrophobic. The four walls in which the story is contained begin to smother Viviane as well as the viewer, who is never visually prone to Viviane's life outside the courtroom.

But Viviane Amsalem is a strong woman and

continues to push for her right to divorce, regardless of how dubious it is that she will be granted this wish. Her determination to receive a divorce from a husband whom she claims never loved her is noticeably incomprehensible to the judges. They begin to challenge her womanhood as the trial becomes more tiresome, highlighting some of the deep-rooted gender inequalities that can stem from religion.

Viviane claims that there is no love in the marriage, even if they both agree that as individuals they are honorable and seemingly good spouses. The brief glances that Viviane and Elisha share from across the small courtroom are intensely sterile. Slowly, Viviane reveals that she wants to be free of her husband because he loathes her. If this is the case, why will he not let her go? It seems that Elisha's pride and his religion have confused themselves with emotion.

Various friends and family members enter and leave the courtroom, each offering their own testimony in the form of a story or advice regarding Viviane and Elisha's relationship. But their

own biases and insecurities begin to color their words, only complicating the situation for those involved. The parties' lawyers also begin to unravel and become emotionally invested in the trial.

Elisha's brother takes a conservative stand, insisting that according to Jewish law, Elisha has done nothing wrong so there should be no dissolution of the marriage. He accuses Viviane of not upholding the Jewish customs that Elisha holds close to his heart.

Meanwhile, Viviane's lawyer Carmel (Menashe Noy), who is clearly more liberal and understands Viviane, grows frustrated with the court. As he becomes more adamant, he is questioned about his feelings toward Viviane. That a woman should be free because of her own will is not understood nor recognized by the court or by Elisha while every other minute detail surrounding the case is inspected.

It becomes almost comical each time a subtitle details how much time has passed since the last date. Comical and yet incredibly disturb-

ing that the court has allowed this painful farce to continue. Viviane is being suffocated by her husband, but she remains strong and determined to obtain her freedom. While initially he may have seemed the dominant party in the eyes of the judges because of his legal right to refuse a divorce, by the end of the film he is the coward.

The court becomes tired of his antics — his refusal to show up in court until threatened with jail time and his stubbornness to admit any of his flaws. Viviane becomes the stronger party. The court nearly sympathizes with her, growing frustrated with her stubborn husband. But their rigid and antiquated views of women hold them back, and they refuse to interfere with what is law. Viviane remains restricted by both her husband and the court.

After three years of trying to rationalize with the court and with her husband, Viviane is granted a divorce. Her husband does not simply let Viviane go, however. Even after Viviane is free under the law, she remains restricted by a promise made to him.



COURTESY OF COURTESY OF PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Viviane Amsalem (Ronit Elkabetz) struggles to divorce her husband due to Orthodox Jewish laws.

Vector hopes to provide creative outlet for students

VECTOR, FROM B3

last semester and whipped our aspirations into tangible shape, and we brought in friends and people we admired from a distance from our writing classes, and then suddenly we had a deadline and a domain name and now we're here."

The editors-in-chief then began work on creating a website for the weekly publication.

"We, as Writing Sems majors, basically had to learn HTML and CSS

from scratch to make our website," Landry wrote. Though the overall look of the website has evolved overtime, the philosophy has remained the same, according to Landry.

This philosophy is centered on creating an open space for student writers to explore their abilities without traditional constraints.

"The main purpose in founding Vector was to avoid pigeon-holing people into any sort of niche journal or a 'literary' magazine," wrote Shuman, "but to allow people an outlet to experiment with more magazine-style, post-Internet writing."

The weekly publication is also interested in documenting the personal views and concerns of current students. According to the magazine's online mission statement, "The articles featured in this magazine will constitute reflections and observations inherent to our concerns as inheritors of this modern age."

Submissions for Vector are submitted to the magazine's email address that can be found on the magazine's website and Facebook page. The submission page of the website reads: "Now

accepting essays, poems, short memoirs, anti-capitalist diatribes, ketchup stained love letters, blasphemous cartoons, tender manifestos, and anything else that can fit in a website. Make your grandmother blush and yourself proud."

Though most submissions are currently fictional stories and visual art, Landry and Shuman are hoping to receive more submissions of non-fiction and personal essays.

"Someone send us a Neo-Communist Manifesto, g*ddamn it," wrote the editors-in-chief.

In bi-weekly to weekly meetings, the staff of Vector hold roundtable sessions to edit, workshop and critique the submissions they receive. Currently most of the submissions received are from members of the Vector staff. However, Gontarek is confident that the source for submissions will expand over time.

"Once we get the locomotive going, others will be inclined to submit," he wrote. "Plus we're all badgering even more writers and artists we've admired from afar."

Landry and Shuman have both worked on publications for Hopkins in the past, but noted a lack of useful dialogue between writers.

"I didn't feel as though I got to work with people one on one in the way that I think is really useful for developing as a writer," Landry wrote.

As a result, they decided that another focus of Vector should be to create a sense of community.

"I don't want Vector to be a place where people just submit their work because they want to be published. We hope it will be a place where writers can communicate with each other," she wrote.

Gontarek shares this desire to create a community network for the publication.

"Now that we've got a decent amount of outside submissions, the plan is to talk amongst ourselves about what we're into and what we're not into and relay the feedback to the submitters," he wrote. "We want to form relationships with submitters so that we can work together to refine pieces before ultimately publishing them." He hopes to create a "kind of thriving network for Hopkins writers, something more social, more alive."

Vector is student-run and does not currently have plans to be affiliated with or recognized by Hopkins, but Landry says that may change in the future.

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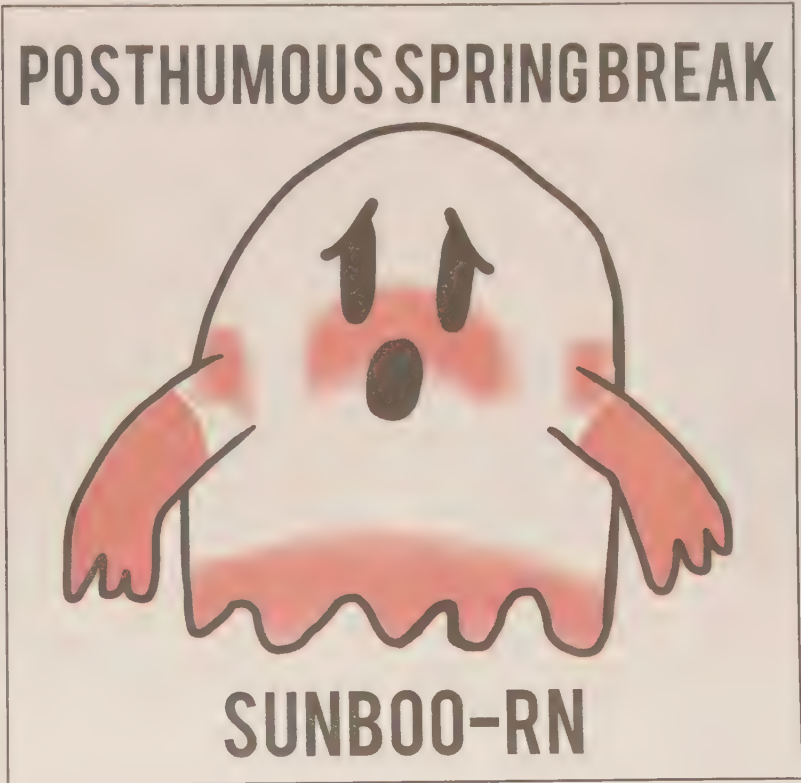
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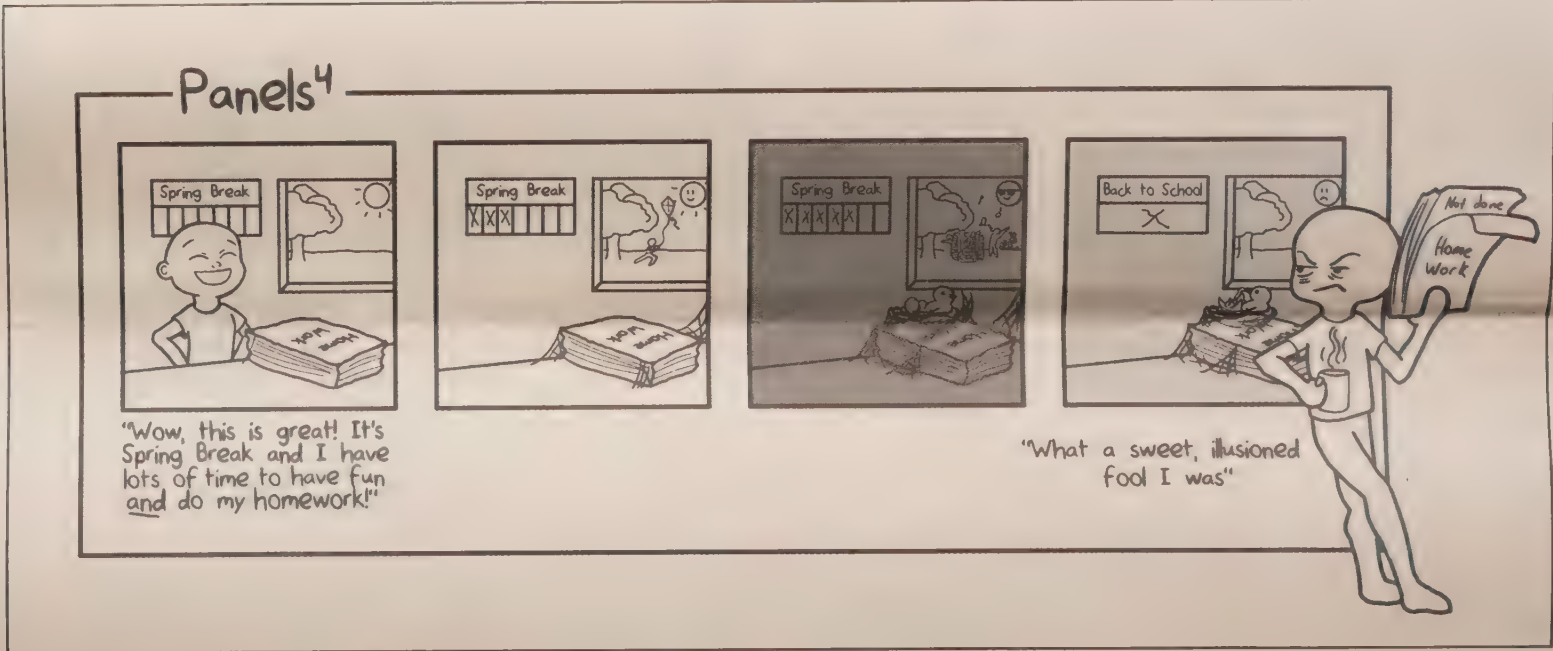
Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



Spring Break Lies

By Erica Schwarz



Welcome Back

By Chloe Ferris



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists find new model for heart dysfunction

By JOAN YEA
Staff Writer

Electrical signals, conducted through five billion cells in the human heart, synchronize the contraction and relaxation of the cardiac muscle, culminating in a perfect heartbeat.



QUEBECOISLIBRE.ORG

Cardiologists at Hopkins have used new tools to map out the heart.

When the electrical impulses, however, become disorganized, the rhythm disturbances lead to critical conditions such as atrial and ventricular fibrillation, which are characterized by weak, uncoordinated and chaotic contractions. Scientists have had trouble understanding the causes behind these diseases, but a new way of looking at how the heart works may help.

With an electrocardiogram, the type of arrhythmia can be diagnosed, though currently existing methods are limited in the exact identification of where these disturbances come from.

To develop a new model of the heart, Dr. Hiroshi Ashikaga, a cardiologist and biomedical engineer at the Hopkins School of Medicine, led his team in using information theory, the mathematical theory of communication, to suggest that rhythm disturbances can be alternatively explained as communication breakdowns. The study, which was published online on March 4 in the *Journal of the Royal Society Interface*, describes the different types of cardiac fibrillation as disruptions in the transmission of information throughout the heart.

Interpreting the heart as a communication system, the researchers measured the amount of information that was transmitted during normal and abnormal heart rhythms, quantifying the electrical signals and mapping the electrical communication flow with computer representations. Within this framework, they can think of an electrical propagating through the heart as information being conveyed among the cardiac muscle cells.

The normal heartbeat as well as three mechanisms of arrhythmia were simulated across a two-dimensional lattice of cells using the two most commonly used models of cardiac action potential propagation: the monodomain reaction-diffusion model and cellular automata model. Having derived a profile for each heart rhythm from data based on the information shared between the cells, the scientists were surprised to discover that the information sharing was different for each arrhythmia and each model.

"If one accepts the traditional view of the heart as a functional syncytium [a single cell with many nuclei], one can imagine that the information sharing among the cells within the heart should be freely available at different locations," Ashikaga said. "Contrary to the classical teaching that the heart can be considered to be one big cell, we found that the heart has a very heterogeneous structure."

The researchers also discovered that while the four heart rhythms all demonstrated heterogeneous spatial profiling, SEE HEART, PAGE B8

Peanut allergies have a genetic component



SCIENCENEWS.ORG

Researchers found that there is a genetic aspect to peanut allergies.

By SARAH SUKARDI
Staff Writer

On every medical form, there is that one box to check off: "allergies." It's a question that most people are lucky enough to gloss over, but allergies are a very real problem in the United States and the world, especially among children. It is estimated that between two percent and 10 percent of children in the world are afflicted with food allergies.

Scientists have long suspected that one of the many causes of these allergies is genetic: An allergic reaction may be shared among several children in a family, or be passed from parents to children.

But several researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in a study of the human genome, have pinpointed the ex-

act genes associated with peanut allergies.

Dr. Xiaobin Wang was the principal investigator of the study published by Hopkins researchers in the scientific journal *Nature Communications*. During their study of the genome, Wang and her team analyzed DNA from over 2,700 patients, including 1,315 children and 1,444 of their parents. In particular, they focused on analyzing subtypes of some of the allergies that are more common and well-defined, including peanut, milk and egg allergies.

What they found was a specific locus in the genome associated with increased risk of a peanut allergy. The HLA-DR and HLA-DQ gene region of the human genome consistently had mutations in patients with peanut allergies. The significance SEE PEANUTS, PAGE B8

Europeans gather to watch a solar eclipse

By SARI AMIEL
News and Features Editor

On Friday, a solar eclipse darkened the skies of the North Atlantic for four hours, prompting dramatic photographs for some and disappointment for others in the many countries where cloudy skies unexpectedly blocked the view.

A total solar eclipse, in which the moon moves between the Earth and the sun, occurred above parts of the North Atlantic Ocean. Spectators in the Faroe Islands and Svalbard were supposed to have views of this total solar eclipse, but the view was blocked by clouds in the Faroe Islands.

In Europe, northern Asia and northern Africa, some people were able to witness a partial eclipse, where the moon only partly blocked out the sun, but clouds obscured the view of the eclipse in many locations, including Paris and London.

Despite the widespread lack of visibility, Friday's eclipse was unique in that it took place over a heavily populated area, providing many people with the opportunity to see it.

"For some eclipses, you have to be in the middle of the ocean to see it, or it will only cast a shadow on the east of Russia," astronomer Edward Bloomer, of the Royal Observatory in England, told *The New York Times*. "This one was great, as so many people on the earth could see it."

The recent solar eclipse was the largest that Europe has seen in the past 15 years, and Europeans will not be able to see another solar eclipse until 2026.

The eclipse was also unusual because it coincided with the presence of a supermoon and with the vernal equinox, the first day of spring. Supermoons occur when the moon's orbit brings the moon closer to Earth than usual, causing the moon to appear larger and brighter.

The eclipse prompted concerns that Europe would face widespread power outages, given that the continent's energy needs are partially met by photovoltaic solar power. Solar power comprises seven percent of the energy used by Germany, one country where the solar eclipse was seen.

Officials spent months planning for the solar eclipse, but the initial drop in the production of solar energy was lower than predicted. During the eclipse, European power systems lost 17 gigawatts of energy out of the 89 gigawatts of total output, but they avoided any disastrous shortages. When the moon blocked the sun over Europe, power systems used back-up sources of energy, such as stored hydroelectricity, wind energy, fossil fuels or geothermal energy, in order to ensure that energy supply would meet the demand.

Although European power systems handled SEE ECLIPSE, PAGE B8

A sense of purpose can help you live a longer life

By SUNNY CAI
Staff Writer

The Japanese believe that everyone has a "reason for being," or "ikigai." In Japanese culture, searching for one's ikigai is regarded as very important, as the discovery of one's ikigai is believed to bring meaning, direction and satisfaction to life. In fact, *National Geographic* writer Dan Buettner theorizes that one of the main reasons Okinawans are among the longest-lived people on the planet is because they have a high sense of ikigai.

Buettner is probably on the right track. A new study by researchers at the Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital and the Mount Sinai Roosevelt Hospital demonstrates that people with a high sense of purpose in their lives, who have high ikigai, may have a reduced risk of dying from cardiovascular events, such as heart disease and stroke. The researchers performed a meta-analysis of relevant studies in order to assess the impact of ikigai on cardiovascular events and mortality.

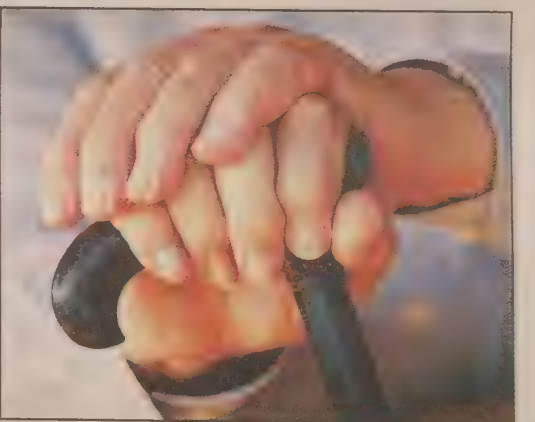
Randy Cohen, Chirag Bavishi and Alan Rozanski led the meta-analysis study. They performed a systemic search to pinpoint studies that examined the impact of ikigai on mortality and cardiovascular events. The meta-analysis features ten prospective cohort studies published during the past eleven years, with

data from a total of 137,142 people. The findings of the meta-analysis were presented on Mar. 6 at the American Heart Association's Epidemiology & Prevention / Lifestyle & Cardiometabolic Health (EPI/Lifestyle) 2015 Scientific Sessions in Baltimore.

The first study followed 1,189 American adults aged 70-79 over a period of seven years. The study found that even after accounting for a number of demographic, health status, behavioral and psychosocial factors, older adults who never or rarely felt useful to others were more likely to experience an increase in disability or to die over the seven-year period, compared with older adults who frequently felt useful.

The second study, the Ohsaki Study, followed 43,391 Japanese adults over a period of seven years and assessed their sense of ikigai. The study showed that when compared with people who had found their ikigai, the risk of death was significantly higher among people who had not found it, with the increase in mortality risk attributable to cardiovascular disease.

The third and fourth studies followed 1,306 northern Japanese men and 1,653 northern Japanese women aged 40-74 from 1988 to 2003. The studies found that for men, having a strong sense of ikigai was associated with a decreased risk of death from stroke and/or cardiovascular



RAND.ORG

Scientists have found a link between a sense of purpose and longevity.

disease. In contrast, for women, the studies did not find a significant relationship between having a sense of ikigai and mortality. However, this was most likely due to the smaller number of female deaths in the study, which reduced the statistical significance.

The fifth and sixth studies, from the Japan Collaborative Cohort Study, followed 30,155 Japanese men and 43,117 Japanese women aged 40-79 years from 1988 to 1990 and assessed their sense of ikigai, among other lifestyle factors. The studies found that when compared to men and women without a sense of ikigai, men and women with a strong sense had reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, coronary heart disease and external causes.

The seventh study followed 784 rural Japanese adults aged 65 and older from 1995 to 2001 and

assessed their perceived usefulness. The study found that even after adjusting for subjective health and other variables, people with a greater sense of usefulness to others had significantly reduced mortality.

The eighth study followed a nationally representative sample of 1,361 American adults aged 65 and older from 1992 to 2007. The study found that older adults who have a strong sense of meaning in life have reduced risk of death when compared to those who lack a strong sense of meaning in their lives. Specifically, the findings of the study suggest that a greater sense of meaning in life is associated with better health, which, in turn, is associated with a lower risk of death.

The ninth study followed 1,238 community-dwelling American adults (with a mean age of 78) for five years. The study SEE LIFESPAN, PAGE B8



NASA.GOV

A total solar eclipse was visible from many parts of Europe on Friday.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Solar eclipse causes atypically high tides

Arrhythmias create distinct electrical signals

ECLIPSE, FROM B7
this solar eclipse well, future eclipses might be more disruptive in a world that is powered more by solar energy.
This past weekend, high tides formed on the coasts of the U.K. and France due to the solar eclipse. The gravitational pull of the moon is the main force that influences tides on Earth with the sun exerting a smaller, secondary effect. During a solar eclipse, the alignment of the sun and moon causes their gravitational pulls to combine, resulting in large tides on Earth. These supertides tend to happen during the month of March and are especially high every 18 years.
People who were watching the solar eclipse were told to wear special glasses that would protect their eyes. It is actually safe to di-



ESA.INT
Many Europeans got a good look at a partial solar eclipse on Friday.

rectly watch a total solar eclipse — the danger comes when people don't look away as the moon begins moving away from the sun. In a dark environment, pupils dilate in order to let more light into the eyes. Right after a total solar eclipse, when people suddenly find themselves staring at the sun, the sun's light can be more damaging to the retina than usual because the eyes have not readjusted.
Solar eclipses don't only affect humans; many animals adjust their behaviors when they notice the sky darkening before an eclipse. Several nocturnal species begin to hunt during eclipses, the way they do after the sun sets. Many birds stop singing while an eclipse is taking place and sing more, the way they typically do at dawn, after the eclipse ends.

HEART, FROM B7
they significantly differed in the entropy of individual cardiac cells. Entropy, a term utilized in information theory, quantifies the uncertainty about a certain variable, the extent to which information is lacking.
Using entropy, the scientists intended to track the electrical signals that are too chaotic to trace with the current clinical method. Of particular interest was the application of the information theory framework to spiral reentry arrhythmia, a condition distinguished by spiral waves that circulate in the heart tissue.
The center of the arrhythmia, an area that does not get excited or otherwise affected by this electrical wave, does not display much uncertainty and is easy to pinpoint by considering the entropy of the heart.
"Spiral waves, which are commonly observed in any kind of excitable system, have been successfully measured in the hearts of mammals, such as sheep, goats and rabbits," Ashikaga said. The means to directly measure the spiral wave in the human heart, however, had been lacking. "One of the motivations behind the project was to measure the spiral wave in the human heart by modeling the heart based on the information theory."
With the quantification of entropy in the human heart, its core, a therapeutically important location, can be more precisely targeted by treatments such as



PBS.ORG
Hopkins researchers mapped the electrical output of hearts that suffered from different arrhythmias.

catheter ablation, which removes the heart tissue that is the cause of the abnormal rhythm.
"The framework will introduce a more personalized, efficient way to treat individual patients," Ashikaga said.
The consequent line of investigation from the findings of this study will be to discern if the paradigm proves to be valid in human patients. Before the framework is applied to human patients, however, Ashikaga and his team cite two limitations of their investigation, one being the cardiac simulation across a two-dimensional, homogeneous lattice and the other being the omission of the conduction delay in their computation.
The real cardiac tissue of a human heart is three-dimensional and heterogeneous. Moreover, there is a chance

that due to the finite distance between the cells in the cardiac muscle, the delay before the electrical signal had reached some cells may have been underestimated, and the amount of shared information may actually be more than what was measured by

the researchers.
Nevertheless, the paradigm of the heart that was constructed from the information theory has revealed the heterogeneous nature of the heart and shown the clinical importance of entropy in refining therapeutic methods.

Peanut allergies linked to mutation of a gene

PEANUTS, FROM B7
of this finding is that it is one of the first genes conclusively associated with a certain food allergy. Though there has been speculation in the past, Wang's research provides convincing evidence of a genetic basis to allergies.
Although Wang's lab may have found a certain mutation in a specific

to overall lower rates of peanut allergies later in childhood. The study was conducted across genetically similar populations of Jewish children living in Israel and the United Kingdom. The Israeli children were naturally exposed to higher levels of peanut consumption during early childhood.

When the researchers brought their findings to the lab to test, they gave two diets out to children highly susceptible to allergies: one avoiding peanuts altogether and one including it regularly. Those who ate them regularly were seen to have an 81 percent decrease in allergy.

Such notable scientific findings in such close temporal proximity have great implications for how doctors and patients may handle allergies in the future. The discovery of a genetic basis is the first step to a cure. The knowledge that early exposure of allergens in high-risk children may alleviate symptoms provides a promising pragmatic treatment for food allergies in the near future.

The discovery of a genetic basis is the first step to a cure.

Angelina Jolie undergoes surgery to avoid cancer

By SAMHITA ILANGO
Science & Technology Editor

The recent announcement of Angelina Jolie Pitt's removal of her ovaries and fallopian tubes after showing early signs of ovarian cancer has women across the nation thinking about genetic testing for cancer. Some doctors describe ovarian cancer as one of the most deadly due to its late-stage discovery, which limits treatment options.

Genetic testing for cancer syndromes has been prominent in the medical world in recent years. Genetic mutations that occur during a person's lifetime or are inherited from their parents often play a role in cancer development.
According to the National Cancer Institute, five to 10 percent of all cancers are inherited mutations. Genetic testing looks for specific inherited mutations in a patient's

genes, proteins and chromosomes. After preliminary consultations with doctors, patients undergo several steps prior to the actual genetic testing. According to the American Cancer Society, a patient's risk assessment is taken, measuring reasons for genetic testing, family history, lifestyle factors and other early detection practices.
Genetic counseling follows risk assessment, where trained counselors provide information about testing, allowing the patient and the family to decide upon the matter. For instance, a counselor might guide the patient toward possible lifestyle changes or signs and symptoms of the cancer if the testing shows they are at high risk.

Then, the patient will be asked for informed consent in writing, leading to final specimen collection and lab testing. Testing can include samples of blood, cheek cells, urine, amniotic fluid or other body tissues. Final test results are sent in to medical labs for analyses, which are then sent to doctors or genetic counselors to convey to patients.
Pitt consented to surgery after realizing her genetics combined with her family history could be a risk to her life. Not only did she test positive for the BRCA1 gene mutation, a gene implicated in ovarian cancer, but she also lost her mother, grandmother and aunt to cancer.
After realizing the surgery would put her into menopause, Pitt

came to terms with the physical and emotional repercussions of the surgery. Her consultations with both Eastern and Western doctors concluded that removal of both tubes and ovaries would be the best option. Pitt had pre-planned the surgery to take place within the upcoming months. However, a recent blood test showed markers for early cancer signs, urging her to undergo surgery sooner than expected.
Some have dubbed the effects of Pitt's announcement as the "Angelina Effect." Experts have displayed different responses to this movement. Some experts say that her public declaration will lead to greater anxiety and unnecessary tests. The Hollywood star does make note that not all positive testing results for the BRCA gene should lead to immediate surgery.
Meanwhile, other cancer specialists praise Pitt for increasing awareness about genetic testing and prophylactic surgery. Although every cancer situation is different and unique, Pitt has some women thinking ahead.
Dr. Susan Domchek at the University of Pennsylvania's Bassett Research Center tells *The New York Times* that removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes is strongly recommended for women before the age of 40 who are BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutation carriers in order to prevent the development of ovarian cancer.

Sense of life purpose is linked to longevity

LIFESPAN, FROM B7
found that possessing a greater purpose in life is associated with a reduced risk of death among community-dwelling older persons, even after adjusting for factors such as age, sex, education and income, as well as confounding variables such as depression, disability and chronic medical conditions.
The tenth study followed a nationally representative sample of 7,108 American adults aged 20-75 for 14 years, beginning in 1994. The study found that people who had a purpose in life lived longer than their counterparts, who felt their lives lacked purpose. Notably, the study found that obtaining and maintaining a strong purpose in life can be just as critical at

younger ages as it is at older ages.
The common denominator in all 10 of these studies is the significant association between possessing a strong sense of purpose in life and a reduced risk of cardiovascular events and death.
Cohen, Bavishi and Rozanski believe that future research should focus on investigating the importance of ikigai as a determinant of health and well-being as well as on developing strategies to assist individuals with a low sense of life purpose in finding their ikigai.
For now, Cohen urges individuals who possess a low sense of life purpose to start searching for their ikigai in order to improve their overall well-being.



WIKIPEDIA.ORG
Peanut allergies are affecting a growing number of children worldwide.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

APL finds new way to detect radioactivity



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Researchers have created a new method to detect radioactivity.

By **TONY WU**
Staff Writer

Radioactive decay happens naturally to all materials. However, some elements decay much faster than others, allowing scientists to detect and identify certain materials. The importance of radioactivity detection is not often understated. These detection methods have a variety of uses, including monitoring nuclear power plants and screening cargo for potential terrorist activities. Some methods use helium-3, a material that is traditionally hard to obtain, but a new idea from the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) may have solved the problem of its rarity.

In recent decades, the importance of radioactivity detection is not often understated.

Current technologies for detecting radioactive decay utilize detectors filled with helium gas. When a neutron is released from the material, it impacts the detector and the helium molecule absorbs the thermal neutron. The helium molecule then breaks down into hydrogen ions. The detectors are then subjected to gamma rays, allowing the software to measure the count rate of the radioactive decay. By using helium gas, the resulting hydrogen ions produce low sensitivity to gamma rays, raising the efficiency of the detectors. Though effective, helium-3 is produced in low quantities, mostly as a byproduct of hydrogen-3 decay.

Other detection materials also exist such as boron trifluoride (BF₃) enriched with boron-10. The mixture is necessary because boron does not exist as a gas. As a result, BF₃ is used to suspend elemental boron in a gaseous phase. However, BF₃ is highly toxic. Therefore, a safer method of neutron detection that relies on more abundant materials is necessary to meet the demands of radioactive detection.

A novel method created by a team of scientists, led by Christopher Lavelle at the APL, in-

volves noble gas scintillation, a process in which particles produce light when they impact noble gases. In the experiment, a converter is set up before the detectors to generate ions from radioactive decay materials. For detection, the detectors were filled with xenon gas, a noble gas that has a high scintillation yield.

In a typical detection process, the product of radioactive decay enters the chamber of the machine. The neutron impacts the converter, producing energetic ions that head in different directions. One of the ions impacts the detector filled with xenon gas and ionizes the noble gas. The excited xenon atoms then undergo decay, producing photons in the process. The amount of photons are then detected, and radioactive decay is said to have occurred when the amount of photons exceeds a minimum threshold.

In this setup, a coating of foam, enriched with boron-10, surrounds the detectors. The foam is the converter since the boron isotope absorbs neutrons readily and emits ions during the process. The photons that are generated from the detectors will then pass through the foam to reach photon detectors that are placed outside. Because of the placement of the foam between the detectors, photons might be blocked from reaching the outside detectors. To test the photon's ability to penetrate the foam, scientists allow neutrons to impact the foam, measuring the threshold of detection. The results suggest that the photons emitted by xenon gas are large enough to pass through the foam and reach the outside detectors.

While the discovery offers a new method for safe radioactivity detection, there are some aspects that need to be addressed such as the use of multiple boron foam layers or the use of transparent foam that display the same properties as boron.

Bird, thought to be extinct, is rediscovered

By **REGINA PALATINI**
Staff Writer

On Earth, plant and animal species are continuously going extinct — more species are extinct than are alive on our planet right now.

When species are diminished due to factors such as environmental forces and evolutionary changes, they die out, only to be seen again in fossils or other remnants. The fossil record is usually the only way we can understand the organisms that lived before our times. Once in a while, though, scientists are surprised, and they find an animal that was long thought to be gone.

Enter the Jerdon's babbler.

Despite the activities of humans that destroyed their habitat and subsequently entered their name on the extinct list, this 16-17 centimeter long, nondescript, thick-billed and long-tailed insectivore was seen on May 30, 2014 alive and well after being last seen 73 years ago.

The Jerdon's babbler was initially described by British naturalist T. C. Jerdon in January 1862 after observing it in grassy plains close to Thayetmyo, Myanmar. The Jerdon's babbler inhabits dense growth near water. Its habitat of choice is floodplain, tall grassland and reedbeds, sometimes seasonally inundated or near rivers and pools. It pre-

fers dense, contiguous, undisturbed stands of grass several meters in height and is unobtrusive, found generally in pairs or small groups. Its foraging technique consists of perching on a reed stem, grasping a leaf sheath with its bill, and then rapidly tearing off the leaf to hopefully expose small arthropods and other invertebrates.

Enter humans.

Many plants and animals have become extinct as a result of the destruction of their natural environment by human actions. Ninety-nine percent of the plant and animal species currently under threat of extinction are in that position due to activities of humans. Humans destroy habitats through urban development and introduce invasive species that can have a negative effect to the fragile ecosystems that some species call home.

Natural conditions on our Earth continue to change due to human influence, and the numbers of extinctions are likely to increase as a result. About 1000 species have become extinct during the past 500 years, and it is estimated that there are about 14,000 endangered species just in the United States — about seven percent of our plants and animals.

Large areas of natural swamps and wet grassland that were once the home of the Jerdon's babbler have been totally destroyed or damaged as a result of drainage, con-

version for agriculture, grazing for domestic animals and development of communities. The remaining habitat is subject to damage by additional drainage for agriculture, excessive burning and cutting, and commercial forestry plantations.

A team of scientists from Myanmar's Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division and the National University of Singapore re-discovered the Jerdon's babbler as they were analyzing a location near an abandoned agricultural station that continues to support some of the grassland habitat. During two days, they observed Jerdon's babblers at numerous locations in the immediate vicinity, and they

were able to obtain blood samples and photograph evidence.

The scientists remarked that the degradation of the vast grasslands led many to consider this subspecies of Jerdon's babbler extinct. The discovery not only proves that the species still exists in Myanmar but that its habitat is still intact as well.

The DNA samples extracted from blood collected from the birds will be analyzed to determine if the Jerdon's babblers recently discovered in Myanmar should receive full species status. If so, the species would be considered exclusive to the Myanmar region and be carefully conserved due to its reduced and fragile habitat.



PHYS.ORG

The Jerdon's babbler was rediscovered in the plains of Myanmar.

Tracking and tracing neurons in the brain

The brain is an overwhelmingly complex structure comprised of diverse cell types. Understanding how each population of cells works will lead us toward a deeper insight into the biology of brain function.

A major step in that direction is to figure out ways to differentiate each cell type from another. A study recently published in *Science* by Amit Zeisel and colleagues from Sweden has uncovered novel classes of cells in the brain based on what genes they express. This work sets the foundation for future studies to further investigate cellular diversity of the brain and the functional contribution of each cell type to overall brain health and physiology.

Neurons can be classified based on similarities and differences in shape, location and electrical firing properties. They can also be grouped based on what genes

they express. To study the heterogeneity of cells in the mouse brain, the study focused on two regions: the somatosensory cortex and the hippocampus. Whereas the somatosensory cortex is responsible for conscious perception of bodily sensation, such as touch, the hippocampus plays a significant role in learning and memory.

In the search for different cellular populations, the researchers relied on a technique called RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq). RNA-seq is a technology that allows scientists to look for differences in gene expression based on the RNA transcripts, which correlates with how much a gene is expressed. From the RNA-seq data, the researchers identified 47 types of cells based on the genes they express. These cells included special types of neurons and non-neuronal support

cells such as astrocytes, star-shaped cells in the central nervous system, and microglia, cells that function as part of the immune system.

These findings have major implications in propelling progress toward understanding brain biology. The variety of genes expressed throughout various cells suggests a complex molecular network that

Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

functions in maintaining normal brain function. For instance, these genes could determine the type of stimulus needed to cause a change in neuronal response. In the somatosensory cortex, there is a "topographical map" in which every surface on the body is encoded by a specific population of neurons. It may be intriguing to examine how this map and gene expression are related. While such a map does not exist in the hippo-

campus, there are different types of memories that can be produced. It may be possible that neurons that express a certain gene will participate in the formation of one specific type of memory.

A major struggle in brain science is to figure out ways to identify specific populations of cells, since many share the same physical and molecular characteristics. With more genetic markers, it is now more feasible to deliver specialized molecular tools in well-defined populations of cells to assess how they contribute to overall brain physiology. For instance, we can use the diphtheria toxin to destroy cells of interest or even specialized ion channels to rapidly control their activity levels. We can also perform tracing experiments to determine how subpopulations of cells communicate with other nearby neurons in the same region or those that are located further away.

On the therapeutic front, certain brain diseases involve disruptions in small microcircuits. As a result, there needs to be a way to specifically deliver drugs or treatments to only small populations of cells without affecting nearby healthy neurons. This study provides additional genetic markers that clinicians can exploit to therapeutically target cells of interest. Additionally, we can also study how these networks of genes regulate brain function and how these interactions are perturbed by diseased conditions, opening newer and more innovative therapeutic avenues for treating brain diseases.



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Researchers in Sweden have been able to identify groups of neurons based on their gene expression.

SPORTS

Women take 5th, men take 8th to end seasons

SWIM, FROM B12

to not only drop nearly three seconds off of his preliminary time, but also to beat the rest of the field by 1.3 seconds.

A relay team of Holder, Greenhalgh, freshman Kyle Otazu and freshman Davis Knox paced the Jays to a third place finish in the 800 Free Relay with a time of 6:34.90. The time matched the third-fastest time in the history of the program. Holder broke yet another school record by besting his previous record by seven-hundredths of a second to lead off the race.

Entering the final day of competition, the Jays were poised to capture a strong finish in the NCAA tournament. Greenhalgh was the highlight of the day for an inspired Blue Jay squad as another dominating performance by the sophomore earned him a second-place finish in the 1650 Free with a time of 15:04.63.

In addition to capturing the silver medal, Greenhalgh broke his own school record by more than eight seconds and was .22 seconds away from cementing his name under another national record.

After Greenhalgh's strong performance, the Jays closed out the day with a second-place finish in the consolation final of the 400 Free Relay. A Blue Jay squad of Holder, Otazu, Bauchwitz and Kogut swam a time of 3:01.40 to close out the NCAA competition and Kogut earned his fifth All-America honor of the championship.

The Jays finished eighth overall with 162 points while Kenyon won its 34th NCAA title with 468 points to cap off another dominant weekend. The eighth-place finish was the 27th NCAA top-10 finish for the Jays, ending another season on a high note.

In the midst of solid performances by the men's team, the Lady Jays were busy breaking records and earning medals of their own. Senior Ana Bogdanovski was very strong on the first day of the NCAAAs, picking up her second straight title in the 50 Free with a time of 22.85.

The senior was a mere .05 seconds shy of her time in the event from a season ago and now holds the top 10 fastest times in the event in school history. The first-place finish also marked Bogdanovski's third overall individual national championship. In addition to the senior's dominating performance in the 50 free, Hopkins recorded a sixth-place finish from its 200 medley relay team. Junior Sean McGrath, freshman Gwynnie LaMastra, freshman Anna Wisniewski and Bogdanovski notched a sixth-place finish, adding valuable points for the Jays.

Bogdanovski couldn't be contained on day two of the NCAA Championships as she cruised to another gold medal for the second

time in consecutive days.

After besting the entire field in the 50 Free, the talented senior took first place in the 200 Free with a finishing time of 1:46.69. The title was her second straight in the event and her ninth career NCAA title.

The Lady Jays also picked up a third-place finish in the 200 Free Relay, marking the program's second straight medal in the event. Wisniewski started the race off strong before Bogdanovski, freshman Kaitlin Jones and senior Kylie Holden closed it out for Hopkins. The team finished with a time of 1:32.97, the third-fastest time in program history.

Day three of the championship was only slightly less eventful for the Lady Jays as sophomore Abby Brown broke the school record in the 200 Fly. Brown finished third in the consolation final with a time of 2:02.95, besting her own previous program record by .71 seconds.

In addition to Brown's performance, the Lady Jays capped off the day with a fourth-place finish in the 800 Free Relay with a time of 7:22.24. Bogdanovski, Wisniewski, Jones and freshman Courtney Cowan breezed through the relay, posting the third fastest time in program history for the event.

The Lady Jays looked confident and composed entering the final day of the championship searching for another top-five finish in the tournament. On the last day of her career at Hopkins, Bogdanovski captured first place in the 100 Free in her final collegiate swim.

The title was her third of the championship and 10th of her career. The victory completed Bogdanovski's sweep of the 50-100-200 titles as the senior touched in with a time of 49.31 to break her own school record.

Bogdanovski finishes her tenure as a Jay with five individual titles, five relay titles and 23 All-America honors.

LaMastra captured first place in the consolation final of the 200 Breast, while the Lady Jays finished out the championships with a fifth-place finish in the 400 Free Relay.

Wisniewski, Jones, Cowan and Holden combined for a time of 3:24.82, the third fastest time in program history. For her performances throughout the course of the tournament, Holden earned a pair of All-America honors to finish her Hopkins career with four total.

The Lady Jays finished fifth overall in the tournament with 250 points while Emory eased their way to a first place finish with 603 points. Denison finished second before Williams, Kenyon and Hopkins rounding out the top five. The top-five finish marked the end of a strong season for the Lady Jays.



HOPKINSPORTS.COM
Sophomore Evan Holder broke a school record in the 200 freestyle.

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
M. Swimming	Women's Tennis	M. Basketball	Men's Lacrosse
March 18-21, 2015	March 21, 2015	March 13, 2015	March 21, 2015
@ NCAA Championships	vs. Haverford	@ Babson	vs. Virginia
8th place (162 pts.)	W, 9-0	L, 49-47	W, 16-15 (OT)
W. Swimming	Men's Tennis	Baseball	Baseball
March 18-21, 2015	March 21, 2015	March 21, 2015	March 19, 2015
@ NCAA Championships	vs. Bates	vs. UW Platteville @ Ft. Myers	vs. Knox @ Ft. Myers
5th place (250 pts.)	W, 8-1	L, 1-0	W, 16-5

M. B-Ball season comes to an end in the Sweet 16

BASKETBALL, FROM B12

squad, particularly defensively, but they were confident in the game plan set forth by the coaching staff. This proved to be true in the early minutes of the game as Hammer came out firing and downing three triples within the first four minutes to gain a 15-6 lead. However, the Beavers were not about to give up on their season. They put together a 15-5 run, giving them a 21-20 lead midway through the first half. A three-pointer by sophomore Ryan Curran allowed Hopkins to regain the lead, but the Beavers again answered with two straight buckets by sophomores Joey Flannery and Charlie Rice.

"The offense was really starting to click and we were shutting down their key scorers," Curran said. In the final minutes of the half, the Jays pushed ahead, going on a 7-0 run. Buckets by Curran and Bugarinovic as well as another

three from Hammer gave Coach Nelson's team a 30-25 halftime lead.

"We were glad to have the lead at halftime, but also understood the game was far from over," Bugarinovic said. Both teams came out of the locker-room having made huge adjustments defensively.

Both teams combined scored 12 points total nine minutes into the second half. Back-to-back threes by Hammer sparked the Jays to a 39-34 lead with just about 10 minutes to play.

Both teams played the final minutes of the game very closely and with high intensity.

"Since the game was so low-scoring, every basket carried that much more weight," Bugarinovic said. Babson fought back to tie the game up at 39 with a tip in and a three-pointer.

Free throws by Hammer and Bugarinovic gave the Jays a slight two point advantage with 4:15 left to play. The teams would tie each other on three sepa-

rate occasions over the next two minutes, the last of which was a layup by Curran bringing the score to 47-47 with 2:03 to play.

"The last few minutes was exactly what anyone would expect the last few minutes of a Sweet 16 game to be. It was a close, physical game open to either team," Curran said.

Flannery made a pair of free throws for the Beavers to give them a 49-47 lead with 1:50 to play. Hammer was able to get a pair of three-pointers off down the stretch, but neither would fall and the Jays fell short by a score of 49-47.

Hammer led all Hopkins scorers going 6-for-13 from downtown and scoring a total of 20 points. Curran and Bugarinovic helped the cause by adding 11 and nine points, respectively.

Junior Matt Billups also played a huge part defensively, recording three blocks and six rebounds. Senior George Bugarinovic recently was announced a winner of the prestigious Jostens Award.

"Ending your career on games like that is incredibly tough," Bugarinovic said. "The further you go in the tournament, the more it hurts when it's over. As a competitor, I will definitely think about this game for a while. You always think about one play here or there that you could've made that would've changed the outcome of the game... I may never completely erase the Babson game from memory, but hopefully down the road we'll be able to look back at all the tremendous achievements our team had over the past four years." Hopkins finishes its season with a record of 25-5, having set season records for longest winning streak, most conference wins and most overall wins.

Friday brought an end to the careers of Bugarinovic, Hammer, Luke Chambers and Omar Randall. Together, they accounted for 73 wins and two NCAA tournament appearances.

Women's Lax beats both Furman and Georgetown

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

The No. 19 Hopkins Lady Jays extended their win streak by two games over the past two weekends with victories against Furman University and Georgetown University. The wins put the women's lax team at 6-2 to start the season.

The Lady Jays dominated in the game against Furman as they jumped to an early 6-0 lead en route to a dominating 17-3 victory on the road. Junior midfielder Kristen Cannon got the goal scoring started with a free position goal at the 5:38 marker and just three minutes later sophomore forward Haley Schweizer took advantage of a pass from junior forward Jenna Reifler to give the Lady Jays the 2-0 lead.

Junior forward Jen Cook would then beat a double team with a pass to sophomore forward Alexis Mafucci who then scored the team's third goal of the game.

Cook then assisted Schweizer at the 19:53 mark to give the Lady Jays the 4-0 lead. Junior midfielder Dene DiMartino and Mafucci both scored before Furman fought back with two goals of their own making the score 6-2 with 8:08 left to play in the half.

The Lady Jays would not let the goals go un-

answered as they went on a four-goal surge courtesy of DiMartino, Cannon and two from freshman forward CeCe Finney.

Mafucci opened the floodgates in the second half with a goal to complete her hat trick on the day. These were followed by goals from Cook and freshman midfielder Emily Kenul as well as the first career goal from senior Defender Octavia Williams. Finney capped off the five-goal run with another goal to complete her first career hat trick, giving Hopkins a commanding 15-2 lead. While Furman would get one back, the Lady Jays capped off the game with goals from freshmen midfielders Eden Epner and Shannon Fitzgerald. Epner's was the first of her career.

"Usually if you can get up on a team early and quickly then it really sets the tone and pace for the game," Schweizer said.

"We were able to play fast and execute our game plan," senior goalie K.C. Emerson said. "Our energy was really high, which I think kept our confidence up and made it harder for Furman to try to mount a comeback."

One week later, the Lady Jays earned a hard fought 8-6 win at home against their Beltway rival, Georgetown. Hopkins jumped to an early 3-0 lead with goals from Fitzgerald, Finney and DiMartino.

While the Hoyas would get one back before the end of the half, the Lady Jays quickly answered eight seconds later as Finney capitalized on a fastbreak opportunity created by Cook. This gave Hopkins a 4-1 lead going into the half.

Cannon opened up the second half with a goal just 46 seconds in, and Kenul would add another just 36 seconds later. Fitzgerald also scored shortly thereafter, giving Hopkins a 7-1 lead at the 23:51 mark. The Hoyas, however, would not go down without a fight and scored four straight goals to cut the lead to two.

However, just 20 seconds after Georgetown's 4th goal, Fitzgerald stopped the Hoyas' run with her third goal of the game and her second career hat trick. The goal gave Hopkins an 8-5 lead with just seven minutes left to play and, although the Hoyas would get one back, the Lady Jays were

able to buckle down defensively and earn the 8-6 win.

"Georgetown made some good adjustments," Schweizer said. "They took a lot of time on offense and capitalized in their transitions off the draw. They also took advantage of mistakes that we might have made. They pulled together as a team and decided that they wanted this more and they deserved to win."

"Just taking a deep breath and keeping our composure was important," Schweizer said. "We did the little things right and had a few goals spark our energy to get back in it."

"Because [Georgetown] is one of our biggest rivals, [they] are always a huge mental challenge", Emerson said. "I think as a team we were able to stay mentally strong even when they scored a few."

The team returns to action Wednesday against Vanderbilt at home.



RUN BANLENGCHIT/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF
Freshman Emily Kenul and the Lady Jays played tough defense all game.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
ANA BOGDANOVSKI — SWIMMING

By TARIQ OMER
Staff Writer

This week's Athlete of the Week is senior Ana Bogdanovski, who capped her Hopkins women's swimming career by winning the title in the 100 Free in her final swim at the 2015 NCAA Swimming and Diving Championship on March 21. The win brought her title count to three in this year's competition and 10 overall in her collegiate career. *The News-Letter* asked her about her swimming career at Hopkins and the meaning of this title compared to her numerous others.

News-Letter: How did it feel ending your Hopkins career by winning the title in your final race at the 2015 NCAA Tournament?

Ana Bogdanovski: It feels great to have finished my Hopkins career with a sweep of all three races. It's a nice conclusion to an amazing experience.

N-L: You've won numerous titles and awards in your career. How does this win, along with the other from this year's competition, compare to the others?

AB: It's different, because more than half of my victories are from relays. Winning with a team

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Ana Bogdanovski
Year: Senior
Sport: Swimming
Major: Public Health
Hometown: Fanwood, N.J.
High School: Union County Magnet

is a great feeling and is hard to compare to winning an individual race. However, my individual races are a reflection of the hard work and dedication that the coaches and my teammates have put into helping me improve. I'm just glad to make my team proud.

N-L: How do you think you've grown as a swimmer and a competitor since first arriving at Hopkins?

AB: I have grown so much in the last four years. I used to be a nervous wreck about everything — my work ethic was not so great, and I had no time management or organizational skills. Through the

help of my coaches and teammates, I learned and developed these skills in swimming and extended them to the rest of my life, especially in school. I was not a great swimmer coming in to college. I was inconsistent and could barely make it through a practice. But I had great role models and mentors on the team that got me to where I am today.

N-L: What major are you, and how have you handled being an athlete as well as a student for the past four years?

AB: I'm a public health studies major. I didn't nail down the student-athlete thing until my sophomore year when my friend on the team showed me how to manage my time more effectively and that professors are willing to help if you ask. Being an athlete in college kind of forces you into learning time-management skills. If you don't figure it out, you'll easily find yourself up late when you have to get up at five the next morning for practice. Learning to balance work, swimming and sleep was a struggle but was necessary to success.

N-L: How does it feel coming to the end of your collegiate career, and what do you think is in

store for you in terms of swimming in the future?

AB: It's bittersweet. My swimming career is not over — I am training to hopefully swim in the 2016 Olympics for Macedonia. However, Hopkins swimming has been my home and family for the past four years. My team helped me grow and change into who I am now, and I will forever be thankful for this. Coach Kennedy helped me gain confidence in myself in and out of the pool. Coach Kett taught me to relax and get out of my head. My teammates are like family at this point. They know my faults and supported and continue to support me regardless. Hopkins swimming has positively impacted my life way outside the realm of swimming and has gotten me to where I am today. Nothing can compare to what Hopkins swimming is to me.

Bogdanovski has acquired a vast collection of individual and team honors over her career at Hopkins. Her accolades include five individual titles (2-50, 1-100, 2-200), five relays (1-200 Free, 1-400 Free, 2-800 Free, 1-400 Medley) and 23 All-American Honors.

Carey,
Bartnett
finish third
at NCAAs

TRACK, FROM B12
cheering and rooting each other on. It was a great competitive atmosphere."

He cleared 5.15 meters on his first attempt and 5.20 meters on his second. However, the sophomore hailing from St. Louis, Mo. was unable to progress after failing to clear any further heights. North Central freshman Luke Winder cleared 5.36 meters and won first place. Bartnett tied a career record and came in third, the top finish in Hopkins pole-vaulting history.

Also on the first day, senior Carey finished in sixth place in the first heat of the 800-meter run.

"Since I hadn't raced in a while, I went out pretty conservatively. Unfortunately, I got boxed in and wasn't able to place highly in my heat," Carey said. "Luckily, the other heat was so slow that I made the finals. This changed my approach drastically. I knew I had to be more assertive and aggressive to place highly. I simply wasn't fit enough to run from the back."

Ultimately, he had a top-eight time at 1:54.21 and qualified for the championship race the next day.

In the final race, which was his last as a Blue Jay in his indoor career, Carey knew he was going to have to alter his strategy to be successful.

In a fierce final competition, Carey came in third place with a time of 1:54.11.

The Jays open their outdoor season this weekend at both the Raleigh Relays in North Carolina and the Maryland Invitation in College Park.

Men's Lax falls to top-ranked foes

By MICHAEL POZO
Staff Writer

Over spring break, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team dropped two games against two highly touted opponents. The first match took place in Syracuse, N.Y., where the Jays faced off against the top-ranked Orange and lost with a score of 13-10.

The next match took place this past Saturday when the Jays played another highly contested game against seventh-ranked Virginia. The game took place on Homewood Field and required overtime to settle the score, with Hopkins ultimately losing 16-15.

Junior Holden Cattoni led the Jays in scoring with four goals, while freshman Joel Tinney posted a hat trick as well as two assists.

The match was a game of streaks as each team went on multiple scoring sprees throughout the game, resulting in multiple lead changes. The first streak belonged to the Cavaliers as Greg Coholan, Ryan Tucker and A.J. Fish took Virginia to a 3-0 lead early in the first quarter.

The Jays were quick to respond with Tinney scoring his first goal of the day shortly after Tucker's. Hopkins then went on a scoring spree of its own late in the first quarter, netting five goals in five minutes to close out the first quarter and begin the second.

Sophomore Cody Radziweicz both sparked and closed out this streak, scoring two goals on the day. The score, however, was tied 6-6 at the half as Virginia scored three unanswered goals to end the second quarter.

The third quarter proved to be extremely back-and-forth. The two teams scored a combined 10 goals and produced numerous lead changes.

Crawley and Cattoni kicked things off, scoring a goal each less than a minute apart to put the Jays ahead

8-6 in the opening minutes of the quarter.

Tinney and the Stanwick brothers also contributed a goal apiece in the quarter. Virginia would net five goals of its own to keep the score tied 11-11 going into the final quarter.

Aided by three goals from Cattoni and a goal from Connor Reed, the Jays led 15-13 with under two minutes left to play in the fourth quarter. Virginia, however, rallied in the end as Tyler German and Tucker each fired home clutch shots to force overtime. In extra



RUN BANLENGCHIT/PHOTO
Joel Tinney helped keep the Jays close vs. UVA.

time, Coholan sealed the win for the Cavaliers.

The Jays will be back in action this coming Saturday against Rutgers. The game will take place on Homewood Field and is the first Big Ten game of the season for Hopkins. Opening face-off is slated for 2 p.m.

Quarterbacks crucial
in NFL's free agency

FREE AGENCY, FROM B12

exorbitant free agent contracts to the franchises that offer them? The dark truth is that the big free agent splashes don't bode as well as fans think. The teams that consistently offer cap-crunching contracts to big-name players tend to be those very teams that toil in mediocrity. As renowned NFL columnist Peter King so eloquently stated, the only way to "win" free agency is "to get a quarterback" and "learn to say no."

Take, for example, the past five teams that have spent over \$100 million in total contract money on free agency: the 2011 Philadelphia Eagles, the 2012 Denver Broncos, the 2012 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the 2013 Miami Dolphins and the 2014 Buccaneers. The Broncos were the only team to see marked improvement after their splurges, but this is completely attributable to their signing of Peyton Manning and the dominant years he has strung together since then.

The other four squads either lost more games the following two years after their big money off-seasons or maintained mediocre records. Some notable signings of the batch: the Eagles with cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha and quarterback Michael Vick, the Dolphins with linebacker Dannell Ellerbe and receiver Mike Wallace and the Bucs with guard Carl Nicks and defensive end Michael Johnson.

Those players, elite at their positions in the free agency market for their respective years, signed contracts that totaled almost \$350 million in all and should have extended through at least the 2016 season. Nevertheless, not a single one of those players is still on the team with which he signed, whether through underwhelming performance or unwieldy cap numbers.

The teams that handle free agency best are those that remain among the league's elite season after season. Franchises such as the Patriots, Ravens, Packers, Seahawks and Steelers avoid making the headlines in free agency and instead opt for cheaper, younger players acquired through competent drafting.

A common denominator for all those teams is excellent quarterback play as well.

Though some may point to the large contract the Patriots gave All-Pro cornerback Darrelle Revis last off-season as a glaring exception, it panned out to be a wily short-term move for a team on the brink of a championship. In reality, the majority of teams that hand out free agent contracts are not that close to contending.

This current off-season, the franchises that have doled out the most in free agent dollars were among the usual suspects: Miami, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Jacksonville and the New York Jets. The Dolphins made Ndamukong Suh the highest paid defensive player in the NFL, and although this is reasonable for a player of his caliber, a team (especially with the dubious track record of the Dolphins) committing that much capital to a non-quarterback is risky.

Further north, Eagles coach and personnel czar Chip Kelly essentially swapped one All-Pro tailback in LeSean McCoy for another in DeMarco Murray while adding Ryan Mathews to the mix as a pricey yet oft-injured potential backup. To round out the questionable signings, the Jets inked Darrelle Revis, Antonio Cromartie and several other aging defensive backs to massive deals, strange for a team with no answer at quarterback in the foreseeable future.

This year's disciple to the Patriot method of free agency, however, was the Colts, a team with All-World young quarterback Andrew Luck and the staunch belief that 2015 could be the year to bring a Lombardi trophy back to Indianapolis.

Though the team gambled with its future for the next few years by signing aging stars such as Andre Johnson, Frank Gore and Trent Cole to arguably excessive deals, their playoff experiences and veteran presences could pay dividends come the playoffs in January.

Also, even if the Colts do swing and miss on these mid-sized deals, they still have luck and a talented young core of players to soften the blow. Though the Colts may be the current "winners" in free agency, as we have seen, very rarely are Super Bowl champions crowned in March.

Baseball team prepares for season in Ft. Myers

BASEBALL, FROM B12

complete game into a win with 11 strikeouts while only allowing eight baserunners against University of Wisconsin at Stout. Burns, a second team all-conference pitcher last year, looks to lead an excellent pitching staff that kept its earned run average under 3.00 throughout the trip. Senior outfielder Chris Casey backed Burn's gem, leading the offense with a perfect 4-4 day, only a homerun short of the cycle. The team collected 13 total hits while striking out only twice.

Junior infielder Raul Shah has also found his swing early, adding power and run production to the tune of eight runs batted in to compliment three stolen bases in just as many attempts. The Maryland native started several

key rallies that helped run up the score, and he looks forward to continuing the hit parade throughout the entire season.

"Offensively, we are much better than last year," Shah said. "Our mindset is to score nonstop. We want blowouts, not to beat teams by a few runs. We have guys playing confidently to the best of their ability, consistently putting the barrel on the ball, and I don't see that stopping throughout the season."

This mindset was certainly on display against Knox College in an impressive rout in which the Jays tallied 16 runs. The first inning saw senior Craig Hoelzer knock two runners in with a single laced into left field before sophomore Dan Albert cracked a homerun, scoring three

more for a five-run inning. Later in the game, five more innings and five more runs later, sophomore infielder Joe Conlon ripped a bases-loaded triple to cap a six run sixth.

Veteran pitcher Ed Bryner earned the win, but a combined effort of relievers Jonathan Oliveros, Michael Grewe, Ross Lazicky and Chris Casey stifled Knox to only two hits in a showcase of bullpen depth, allowing the offense to unleash its high-scoring attack.

Another offensive trio slated to make a huge impact for the offense of the Jays are infielders Conor Reynolds, Colin McCarthy and Craig Hoelzer who terrorized opposing pitchers, combining for 42 hits and 22 RBIs. Reynolds, last year's starting shortstop

and second team All-Centennial Conference, looks to add speed and consistent on-base percentage, while seniors McCarthy and Hoelzer will look to provide the pop in the center of the lineup.

Looking ahead, Shah adds some high expectations for a team that given its talent and work ethic, has limitless potential.

"As long as we keep grinding every day and focus on the process, not the result, we will be back on a plane heading to the World Series," Shah said. "Obviously there are some things that we can't control, but what we can control is our preparedness. There isn't another team that hits as much in-season or out, and there certainly isn't another team with as much natural talent."

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Senior outfielder Craig Hoelzer is hitting at a .444 clip through the first 12 games.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY
Track @ Raleigh Relays
SATURDAY
Baseball @ Haverford, 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.
Women's Lax vs. UC Davis, 6 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse defeats Georgetown



RUN BANLENGCHIT/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

After a win the weekend before at Furman, the Lady Jays took on long-time rival Georgetown and won a hard-fought battle at home 8-6. The Lady Jays were led by midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald's first career hat trick and a balanced defensive effort highlighted by strong goalie play from both Caroline Federico and K.C. Emerson.

See Page B10

Baseball finishes 8-3 on Florida trip

By SHANE COUGHLIN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins baseball team returns from a week-long trip to Florida having secured eight wins and a significant amount of momentum before beginning conference play. The Blue Jays showed off their deep pitching staff and explosive offense with one of the most complete rosters in recent years for storied head coach Bob Babb. Their early success can be attributed to a long-standing work ethic and mental preparedness that has the entire team determined and already in mid-season form.

Jake Enterlin, senior captain and starting pitcher, is optimistic for the team's return to Baltimore after a productive week.

"Overall, it was an awesome trip. It was frustrating to have some cancellations due to weather, so everyone was really excited to get playing in the warm weather," Enterlin said. "Our bats were hot, and we were able to put up a lot of runs. If we are able to hit well and our pitchers can throw strikes, we are going to be tough to beat."

Senior Justin Drechsel was also optimistic about the team's return to the field.

"I thought the most important part of the week was actually getting on the field to play since we had so many cancellations due to the weather in Baltimore," the senior pitcher said. "This allowed us to prepare for the upcoming conference games by putting out different lineups and giving all the players a chance to show how ready they were to play."

While each victory had contributions from both seasoned veterans and new faces, Brian Lin, a sophomore outfielder, and Nick Burns, a freshman pitcher, stole the headlines and earned the Centennial Conference players of the week for exceptional performances. The switch-hitting Lin took no time to heat up, collecting 12 hits, six for extra bases, while also notching seven runs batted in and scoring five of his own. Off the bump, Burns earned pitcher of

the week by taking his first college start against University of Minnesota at Morris seven innings deep, collecting 11 strikeouts without walking a batter. His dominant start began with seven consecutive strikeouts and never stopped bearing down, allowing only two hits on the day.

Among other notable individual performances, Carter Burns, the junior starting pitcher, turned a

SEE BASEBALL, B10

Men's Hoops defeated 49-47 in Sweet 16

By ZACH BREDL
For The News-Letter

On March 13, the Hopkins men's basketball team played in their first Sweet 16 game of the NCAA Division III Tournament since 1990. The No. 15 Blue Jays, who advanced to this point with Regional wins over Keene State (95-78) and Skidmore (61-58), came into the Sweet 16 boasting an impressive 25-4 record. The Jays, coached by Bill Nelson, headed up to Massachusetts to face the No. 4 Babson Beavers (27-2) on their home floor.

Senior forward George Bugarinovic was confident going into the matchup.

"With as much talent we have, we knew we could beat anyone in the country if we played to our potential," Bugarinovic said.

Over that past few seasons, the Jays have beaten several nationally ranked opponents and have suffered only one road loss this season. Senior guard Jimmy Hammer stated that the team felt no pressure.

"[They] wanted to perform well and win, but [they] also wanted to have fun since it was a once in a lifetime opportunity," Hammer said.

The team knew that Babson was a strong

SEE BASKETBALL, B10

Men's Lacrosse: Heartbreak vs. UVA

Despite jumping out to a 5-3 first half lead and junior Holden Cattoni's four goals, the men's lacrosse team could not hold on facing Virginia, falling 16-15 in OT at home.

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Athlete of the Week: Ana Bogdanovski

Senior swimmer Bogdanovski finished first in the 100 Freestyle swim at the NCAA championships for her 10th career NCAA title, capping an incredible career.

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Men's Track: NCAA Championships

The two Jays representing Hopkins at the track NCAA's, Andrew Carey and Andrew Bartnett, finished third in their respective events, the 800 and pole vault.

Page B11

Men and Women's Swim place at NAAs

By JASON PLUSH
Staff Writer

While the majority of the Hopkins student body was enjoying the relaxation of spring break, the men's and women's swimming teams traveled to Shenandoah, Texas to compete in the NCAA National Championships from March 18-21. The men's team finished eighth overall in the championship, picking up several honors along the way, while the Lady Jays were even more impressive, finishing the fifth overall and bringing home some hardware of their own.

On the first day of competition, the Jays wasted little time in breaking records with some impressive individual performances. Sophomore Andrew Greenhalgh got a quick start in impress-

ing the crowd on hand for the championships. Greenhalgh became the first Hopkins national champion in the 500 freestyle since the year 1981, setting a national record with a time of 4:20.60. The individual national championship was the first of his bright young career for the Jays.

Hopkins also received an inspirational performance from sophomore Evan Holder, who claimed third place in the 200 IM race with a time of 1:46.92. Holder became the first Blue Jay to finish in the top three in the 200 IM at the NCAA since 1993.

And the Jays were just getting started.

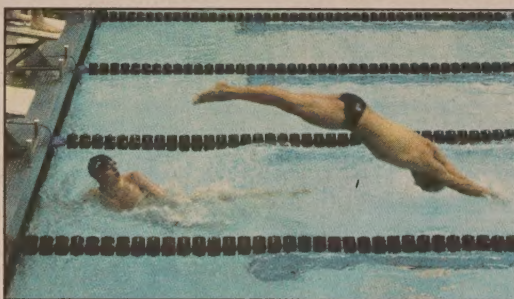
On day two of the championship, Hopkins picked up another strong performance from Holder, who broke a school record in the 200 Free while finishing fourth overall in

the race. Holder finished with a time of 1:37.77. A team of Jays also picked up a fourth-place finish in the 200 Free Relay in the consolation final, placing 13th overall. Senior Greg Kogut started off the event for the Jays, followed by Holder, senior Aaron Katrikh and sophomore Jeremy Bauchwitz.

The Jays continued to build off of their positive momentum heading into

the third day of competition, as Holder and Kogut broke a couple more school records and the Jays notched a top-three finish in the 800 Free Relay. Kogut got Hopkins started with an impressive performance in the consolation final of the 200 Fly, finishing first in the race and ninth overall. Kogut completed the race with a time of 1:47.20

SEE SWIM, PAGE B10



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Senior Greg Kogut set a school record in the 200 fly at the NAAs.

Carey, Bartnett represent Men's Track at NAAs

By NICK RAMANATHAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's track team members Andrew Carey and Andrew Bartnett competed in the NCAA Championships on March 13 and 14 in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Given the shape he was in, he had to properly strategize his vaults.

"I didn't have the greatest endurance going into nationals due to injuries, so I was trying to take the least amount of jumps pos-

sible," Bartnett said. "This is a little nerve-racking because it involves skipping heights. So I just focused on my form and staying in the competition mentally."

After two attempts, he cleared 5.10 meters, joining two others in the competition in attempting to vault 5.15 meters.

"When we got above 5.10 meters, the energy was so high amongst the three remaining competitors," the sophomore vaulter said. "We were all

SEE TRACK, PAGE B11

NFL free agency outshines even March Madness

As a month most popularly known for its college basketball "madness," March has provided the National Football League (NFL) the opportunity to stage a little craziness of its own: free agency. America's most popular professional sport, with annual revenues of around \$10 billion (and the explicit goal of raising that number to \$25 billion by 2027) has continued its quest to make the league a true year-round experience for fans.

Your typical die-hard sports fan is probably guilty of obsessively checking social media for leaks from Adam Schefter on March 10, the eve of NFL free agency, than catching up on college hoops before the tournament.

NFL free agency has become the bridge in the league year between the Super Bowl and the NFL Draft for ravenous football fans. For those who argue that the NFL is over-covered by the media, the off-season television numbers would suggest that even

non-game football action is intensely scrutinized by sports fans.

The NFL Draft's first round garnered television ratings almost three times greater than those of the MLB World Series. The league's business executives have taken notice of this growing, unprecedented success.

Free agency, which at its most basic level is a time for negotiations between franchises and players not

under contract, has continued to grow in its pomp, circumstance and popular media coverage. As television networks, websites and social media pundits have increased their focus on free agency, fans have concurrently grown more impatient with their own teams.

Have'n't made the playoffs in a few years? Sitting on an excess of salary cap space? Traits like these are representative of a team that may splurge on elite players in free agency.

But with all the fanfare aside, what are the true values of growingly

SEE FREE AGENCY, PAGE B11

John
Stoller
Sportpinion